

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Three Mile Lake

Location	
Official Name:..... Three Mile Lake	Local Names:
County/District:..... Muskoka	Geographic Twp:..... Watt
Municipality:..... Township of Muskoka Lake	MNR Admin. Area:..... Bracebridge
Lat./Long:..... 45.1739 N 79.4631 W	UTM (NAD83):..... 17 620767 503417
Topographic Map (1:50,000):..... 31E03	Drainage Basin:..... Dee River

Physical Features		
Surface Area (ha):..... 867	Maximum Depth (m):..... 11	Mean Depth (m):..... 3.5
Elevation (m asl):..... 247	Perimeter (km):..... 35	Island Shoreline (km):..... 2
Volume (10 ⁴ m ³):..... 3035	Watershed (km ²):..... 135 (excludes area of lake)	Water Clarity (m):..... 1.4

Land Use and Development	
Crown Land (%):..... 0	Provincial Parks:..... none
Shoreline Development:	high; commercial, shoreline residential
Access:.....	public; boat launch and parking via Shea Road
Water Level Management:.....	not regulated

Fish Species	
Major Fish Species:	walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass (I)
Other Fish Species:	cisco (lake herring), rock bass (I), pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, yellow perch, white sucker,golden shiner, creek chub, bluntnose minnow
Other Species:.....	spiny water flea (I 2001)

Notes: E: extirpated, I: introduced – intentional or accidental, O: occasional, R: remnant, S: currently stocked, ?: status uncertain, 2009: year of first record or introduction if known, blank: presumed native

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Fisheries Management

<i>Fisheries Management Zone:</i>	15
<i>Designation for Lake Trout Management:</i>	not designated
<i>Fishing Regulation Exceptions</i>	no lake-specific exceptions
..... Six Mile Creek (Bennett's Creek) – Watt Twp., Three Mile Lake to Muskoka Road 35:	
..... fish sanctuary – no fishing from Apr. 1 – Fri. before 3 rd Sat. in May	
<i>Current Stocking:</i>	none
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i>	brook trout (1945), smallmouth bass (1975), walleye (1989)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass
<i>Assessment:</i>	<i>Completed Projects:</i>
	1931 lake report card
	1972 lake survey
	1985 contaminant sampling
	1988 winter creel survey
	1995 winter creel survey
	2000 End of Spring Trap Netting (walleye)

Synopsis

Three Mile Lake is somewhat of an anomaly in Muskoka. Surrounded by deep, clear, oligotrophic lakes, it is shallow, fertile and turbid. The 1931 report card lists walleye and smallmouth as being native to the lake. The low water clarity favours walleye. The 2000 trap net assessment indicated a very high abundance of walleye and that the population was in a healthy state.

When the Skeleton Lake hatchery was in operation, eggs were collected from walleye from Three Mile Lake. The resultant fingerlings were used to stock lakes in the area.

A major nuisance blue-green algae bloom occurred in the fall of 2005. Subsequent research by the Dorset MOE found that the lake natural has high levels of phosphorus and that species of blue green algae occur in and bloom in the lake every year. The combination of phosphorus levels, low rainfall and warm, calm fall weather combined in unusual circumstances to cause the nuisance surface scum.

Updated: March 2010

Refer to Lake Fact Background Information document for explanation of content.

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