

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District Wood Lake

Location	
Official Name:.....	Wood Lake Local Names:
County/District:.....	Muskoka Geographic Twp:..... Oakley
Municipality:.....	Town of Bracebridge MNR Admin. Area:..... Bracebridge
Lat./Long:.....	45.0119 N 79.0739 W UTM (NAD83):..... 17 651775 4986081
Topographic Map (1:50,000):.....	31E03 Drainage Basin:..... South Muskoka River

Physical Features		
Surface Area (ha):.....	385 Maximum Depth (m):.....	14 Mean Depth (m):.....
Elevation (m asl):.....	301 Perimeter (km):.....	13.7 Island Shoreline (km):.....
Volume (10 ⁴ m ³):.....	1925 Watershed (km ²):.....	30 Water Clarity (m):.....
	(excludes area of lake)	4.2

Land Use and Development	
Crown Land (%):.....	0 Provincial Parks:.....none
Shoreline Development:	high; shoreline residential
Access:.....	public; boat launch located off Wood L Road 2
Water Level Management:.....	regulated; water level is controlled by MNR-owned and operated dam. Flows and levels are governed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.

Fish Species	
Major Fish Species:	walleye (I 1950's), smallmouth bass (I 1909), largemouth bass (I 1937?c)
Other Fish Species:	yellow perch, white sucker, cisco (E), brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, rock bass (I 1989), golden shiner, bluntnose minnow, northern redbelly dace
Other Species:	spiny water flea (I 1995)

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
<i>Current Stocking:</i>	none
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i>	smallmouth bass (1961), largemouth bass (1937), walleye (1959),brook trout (1945)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	walleye, smallmouth bass
<i>Assessment:</i>	<i>Completed Projects:</i>
	1943 fish collection report
	1953 biological survey report
	1964 biological survey report
	1974 lake survey
	1989 trap netting assessment
	1990-91 walleye spawning observations
	2008 Fall Walleye Index Netting

Synopsis

Wood Lake apparently did not have any native large sport fish species; the historic community was probably dominated by yellow perch and cisco (lake herring). Smallmouth bass were introduced shortly after the turn of the century and quickly became the dominant predator in the lake. An early attempt to introduce walleye failed. A second attempt in the 1950's was successful. A third fish species capable of structuring the fish community, rock bass, became established some time between 1964 and 1989. An invasive zooplankter, the spiny water flea, is also now present.

These successive introductions have resulted in a near constant state of change in the fish community. The historic abundance of smallmouth (prior to walleye) and walleye (prior to rock bass) will probably not be experienced again as the available habitat is now shared among more competing species.

The potential for supporting walleye is probably currently limited by a combination of the size of the lake, water clarity and diversity of the fish community; conditions which put walleye at a competitive disadvantage. Netting in 2008 found that walleye abundance was low, probably due to the factors above.

A licence has been issued to the cottage association to stock rainbow trout on a put-grow-take basis. Supplemental stocking of walleye may be attempted though the success rate is likely to be low unless advanced fingerings can be obtained.

Updated: March 2010

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

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