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Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District Peninsula Lake

Location	
<i>Official Name:</i> Peninsula Lake	<i>Local Names:</i> Pen Lake
<i>County/District:</i> Muskoka	<i>Geographic Twp:</i> Chaffey and Franklin
<i>Municipality:</i> Town of Huntsville, Township of Lake of Bays	<i>MNR Admin. Area:</i> Bracebridge
<i>Lat./Long:</i> 45.338 N 79.100 W	<i>UTM (NAD83):</i> 17 648799 5022321
<i>Topographic Map (1:50,000):</i> 31E06	<i>Drainage Basin:</i> Muskoka River – Mary Lake

Physical Features		
<i>Surface Area (ha):</i> 840	<i>Maximum Depth (m):</i> 37	<i>Mean Depth (m):</i> 11.7
<i>Elevation (m asl):</i> 284	<i>Perimeter (km):</i> 29.8	<i>Island Shoreline (km):</i>
<i>Volume (10⁴ m³):</i> 8380	<i>Watershed (km²):</i> 53.4 (excludes area of lake)	<i>Water Clarity:</i>

Land Use and Development	
<i>Crown Land (%):</i> 0	<i>Provincial Parks:</i> none
<i>Shoreline Development:</i>	High; shoreline residential, commercial
<i>Access:</i>	Public launches: beside Tally-Ho Inn off Hwy 60; SE end of lake off North Portage Road; Huntsville town docks via Fairy Lake.
<i>Water Level Management:</i>	Regulated; water level is controlled by MNR-owned and operated dam at outlet of Fairy Lake. Flows and levels are governed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.

Fish Species	
<i>Major Fish Species:</i>	brook trout (R), lake trout (S), cisco (lake herring)(E), lake whitefish (E), rainbow smelt (I), northern pike (I 1980's), smallmouth bass (I), yellow perch (I?), Walleye (reported-2015), Black Crappie (reported-2015)
<i>Other Fish Species:</i>	blacknose shiner, blackchin shiner, common shiner, bluntnose minnow, northern redbelly dace, white sucker, longnose sucker, brown bullhead, Iowa darter, pumpkinseed
<i>Other Species:</i>	Spiny water flea (I 1991)

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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

Fisheries Management

Fisheries Management Zone:.....15

Designation for Lake Trout Management:designated; put-grow-take; at development capacity

Fishing Regulation Lake trout open all year (2009)

Exceptions:

Current Stocking: Lake trout – put-grow-take, no natural reproduction expected, stocked every two years with yearlings.

Historic Stocking (last year stocked): Atlantic salmon (1935), rainbow trout (1983), brook trout (1961), smallmouth bass (1953)

Contaminants: Species tested: lake trout, northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, rock bass, yellow perch, rock bass, pumpkinseed

Assessment: Completed Projects:

1990	lake trout spawning observations
1991	lake trout spawning observations
1994-98	Fairy and Peninsula Lakes Study
1998	Spring Littoral Index Netting (lake trout)
2003	Summer Profundal Index Netting (lake trout)
2004	Summer Profundal Index Netting (lake trout)
2005	Summer Profundal Index Netting (lake trout)
2008	Winter Creel Survey
2011	Summer Profundal Index Netting (lake trout)
2015	Broadscale Monitoring

Dissolved oxygen profiles are recorded on regular basis.

Synopsis

Peninsula Lake is part of the Huntsville Lake chain, which includes Fairy and Vernon Lake. The three lakes are connected by navigable channels. A fourth lake, Mary, is accessible via a navigation lock on the North Muskoka River.

Historically the fish community was dominated by cold-water species; brook trout, lake trout, lake whitefish and cisco. Today, brook trout are very rare; they have been displaced by introduced smallmouth bass and northern pike. Brook trout occur only incidentally through emigration from tributary streams. Natural reproduction of lake trout, whitefish and cisco failed some time around the 1970's; probably due to predation on the young by introduced rainbow smelt. The lake trout population is maintained through artificial stocking. Walleye have recently become established in Vernon Lake and are expected to colonize Peninsula Lake as well.

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The Fairy and Peninsula Lakes Study, 1994-1998 was initiated following several major sedimentation events. Components included analysis of sediment cores to infer historic changes that have occurred to the lakes, studies of the effects of shoreline development and shoreline habitat mapping.

The Muskoka Lakes Fisheries Assessment Unit tagged and netted lake trout from 2003-2005 in order to estimate the population size as part of a gear development project.

The winter fishery was characterized for the first time in 2008. Lake trout and northern pike were the primary target species. Anglers spent about 3,400 hrs fishing primarily for lake trout, northern pike or both. It was estimated that 142 lake trout and 43 pike were caught. A maximum of 23 huts were present on the lake, mostly near two access points (Tally-Ho and Maplehurst). Most anglers were day trippers from the local area. There was a minimal amount of commercial activity.

In 2015, Walleye and Black Crappie were documented in the lake during a Broadscale Monitoring fisheries survey. It is assumed these species likely migrated into the lake from Vernon\Fairy Lakes, which are hydrologically connected to Peninsula Lake.

Updated: 2019

Refer to Lake Fact Sheet Interpretation document for explanation of content.

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