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Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Fairy Lake

Location	
Official Name:..... Fairy Lake	Local Names:.....
County/District:..... Muskoka	Geographic Twp:..... Brunel, Chaffey
Municipality:..... Town of Huntsville	MNR Admin. Area:..... Bracebridge
Lat./Long:..... 45.3292 N 79.1814 W	UTM (NAD83):..... 17 642511 5021127
Topographic Map (1:50,000):..... 31E06	Drainage Basin:..... North Muskoka River

Physical Features		
Surface Area (ha):..... 699	Maximum Depth (m):..... 69	Mean Depth (m):..... 22
Elevation (m asl):..... 284	Perimeter (km):..... 24.3	Island Shoreline (km):..... 2.6
Volume (10 ⁴ m ³):..... 16400	Watershed (km ²):..... 1224 (excludes area of lake)	Water Clarity (m):..... 3.1

Land Use and Development	
Crown Land (%):..... 0	Provincial Parks:..... none
Shoreline Development:..... intense; urban, commercial, shoreline residential	
Access:..... public; boat launch on Muskoka River in Huntsville	
Water Level Management:..... regulated; water level is controlled by an MNR owned and operated dam on the North Muskoka River downstream of Fairy Lake; flows and levels are governed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan	

Fish Species
Major Fish Species:..... lake trout, lake whitefish (E), cisco (lake herring) (E), brook trout (R), smallmouth bass (I 1912), largemouth bass (I), northern pike (I 1986), walleye (I 2011), black crappie (I)
Other Fish Species:..... creek chub, trout-perch, bluntnose minnow, yellow perch, golden shiner, rainbow smelt (I 1957), white sucker, longnose sucker, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, rock bass (I)
Other Species:..... spiny water flea (I 1990)

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

Fisheries Management Zone:..... 15

Designation for Lake Trout Management: designated; natural reproduction; not at development capacity

Fishing Regulation Exceptionsno lake-specific exceptions

Current Stocking:..... none planned

Historic Stocking (last year stocked): smallmouth bass (1922), brook trout (1949), rainbow trout (1976), lake trout (2008),

Contaminants (species tested):..... lake trout, yellow perch, rock bass, smallmouth bass, pumpkinseed

Assessment:

Completed Projects:

- 1957 biological survey report
- 1968 contaminant sampling
- 1969 lake survey
- 1977 contaminant sampling
- 1987 lake trout spawning observations
- 1990-91 lake trout spawning observations
- 1996 Spring Littoral Index Netting (lake trout)
- 2003-04 Summer Profundal Index Netting (lake trout)
- 2008 winter creel survey

Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles are collected on a regular basis

Synopsis

Fairy Lake, one of the ‘Huntsville Lakes’ has been greatly impacted by human activities such as shoreline development, water level control, contaminants and introductions of non-native species. Located on the main branch of the North Muskoka River, the lake has a large watershed and receives large inputs of dissolved organic matter resulting in the tea-stained water colour.

Fairy Lake is managed as a lake trout lake; there is a large volume of deep water which provides cold water habitat; however, the low water clarity probably limits the use of the deepest waters. Populations of all three native cold water species, lake trout, whitefish and cisco have experienced reproductive failure, probably as a result of interactions with introduced smelt and exacerbated by the limited water clarity. Stocking of lake trout began early in the last century and continued almost continually until 2008. Stocking has currently been suspended as part of a strategy to determine if natural reproduction can be restored in any of the Huntsville Lakes. A creel survey showed that very little use was being made of the stocked trout.

The shallow water community is dominated by non-native species such as bass and northern pike. Three walleye were caught in 2011 in test nets set by a researcher collecting fish for a contaminant study. Walleye have been expected to colonize the lake in moderate numbers via downstream dispersal from Lake Vernon where they have become well established since 2000. This evidence and other anecdotal appears to show that this population expansion is occurring.

As of 2020, although they have not been sampled directly from the lake, largemouth bass and black crappie populations are probably established, since they are well known from connected waters.

Updated: 2020

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

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Parry Sound District office: (705) 746-4201
 Bracebridge Area office: (705) 645- 8747