

*Natural. Valued. Protected.*

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

# Lake Joseph

Location	
<i>Official Name:</i> .....Lake Joseph	<i>Local Names:</i> ..... Lake Joe, Little Lake Joseph
<i>County/District:</i> .....Muskoka, Parry Sound	<i>Geographic Twp:</i> ..... Medora, Humphrey
<i>Municipality:</i> ..... Township of Muskoka Lakes ..... Township of Seguin	<i>MNR Admin. Area:</i> .....Bracebridge
<i>Lat./Long:</i> ..... 45.176 N 79.730 W	<i>UTM (NAD83):</i> ..... 17 599766 5003330
<i>Topographic Map (1:50,000):</i> .....31E04	<i>Drainage Basin:</i> ..... Lake Rosseau

Physical Features		
<i>Surface Area (ha):</i> ..... 5460	<i>Maximum Depth (m):</i> ..... 93	<i>Mean Depth (m):</i> ..... 25
<i>Elevation (m asl):</i> .....225	<i>Perimeter (km):</i> ..... 140	<i>Island Shoreline (km):</i> ..... 91
<i>Volume (10<sup>4</sup> m<sup>3</sup>):</i> ..... 136500	<i>Watershed (km<sup>2</sup>):</i> ..... 55 (excludes area of lake)	<i>Water Clarity (m):</i> ..... 6.7

Land Use and Development	
<i>Crown Land (%):</i> .....0	<i>Provincial Parks:</i> .....none
<i>Shoreline Development:</i> .....intense; urban, commercial, shoreline residential	
<i>Access:</i> .....public; public launches in Cox Bay, Foot's Bay and numerous marinas	
<i>Water Level Management:</i> ..... regulated; water level is controlled by an MNR owned and operated dam at Port Carling ..... Flows and levels are governed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan	

Fish Species
<i>Major Fish Species:</i> .....lake trout, lake whitefish, smallmouth bass, northern pike, muskellunge (I), burbot, ..... black crappie (I 1987), walleye, largemouth bass (I)
<i>Other Fish Species:</i> .....white sucker, brown bullhead, cisco, spottail shiner, American eel (O), trout-perch, ..... central mudminnow, rainbow smelt (I), slimy sculpin, bluntnose minnow, margined madtom, mottled sculpin, ..... blacknose shiner, creek chub, ninespine stickleback, brook stickleback, pumpkinseed, banded killifish, .....yellow perch, Iowa darter, rock bass (I), golden shiner
<i>Other Species:</i> .....spiny water flea (I 1989)

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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; natural reproduction; not at development capacity

*Fishing Regulation Exceptions* ..... fish sanctuary - no fishing from Jan. 1 – Fri. before Family Day

*Current Stocking:*..... none

*Historic Stocking (last year stocked):* .....smallmouth bass (1949), walleye (1958), lake trout (1967), rainbow trout (1975)

*Contaminants (species tested):*.....smallmouth bass, rainbow smelt, lake trout, cisco, lake whitefish, rock bass

**Assessment:**

**Completed Projects:**

1975-1977	lake survey
1988-2003, 2005, 2006	winter creel surveys
2005-2009, annual	ice hut count
1988-89	spring creel survey
1988-93, 99	summer creel survey
1989-1994	Spring Littoral Index Netting (lake trout)
1991-1995	small fish survey
1991-1995	Near Shore Community Index Netting
1990-1995	bass spawning observations
1990	vegetation and substrate mapping
1995	development mapping
1988-1990	critical habitat mapping
1990-1992	water chemistry
1988-1990	fall lake trout tagging
1989-1994	zooplankton and benthic invertebrate sampling
1988, 1993	contaminant sampling
2003-2004	bathymetric mapping
1995	cisco sampling
2002-2007	Summer Profundal Index Netting (SPIN ) (targets lake trout)
2007-2008	Broad-scale Monitoring (BsM) (large and small mesh gill netting)
2009	Summer Profundal Index Netting (lake trout)
2011	Spin, BsM (small mesh nets)
2013	Broad-scale Monitoring (BsM) (large and small mesh nets)

### Synopsis

Lake Joseph is a large, clear, and deep oligotrophic lake. It is the premier lake trout lake in Parry Sound District, possessing excellent lake trout habitat and supporting a large, primarily winter, fishery. The lake is a core lake of the Muskoka Lakes Fisheries Assessment Unit and a large body of inventory and assessment data exists. A review of lake trout population assessment and creel survey data was done in 2010. From 2003-2009, the average abundance of lake trout (>30 cm long) was estimated at 36,000 lake trout. From 1988 to 2009 the winter fishery averaged about 25,000 hours of effort with about 9,000 lake trout being caught and 5,000 harvested. The long term harvest appeared to be sustainable, but a decline in abundance occurred in 2009 that will be monitored to determine if a downward trend is occurring.

In 2016, the end date of the winter fish sanctuary was changed from a fixed date (Feb. 15) to the Friday before Family Day. The change ensures that lake trout fishing can occur during the Family Day weekend as Feb. 15 falls on or after Family Day in some years.

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### **2016 Broad-scale Monitoring**

Lake Joseph was sampled in 2016 as a “trend”, lake for Cycle 2 of the provincial Broad-scale Monitoring program. Results will be reported through that program. No new species were captured on Lake Joseph during the netting project.

Updated: 2018

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

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