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Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Lake Rosseau

Location

Official Name:..... Lake Rosseau **Local Names:**.....
County/District:..... Muskoka, Parry Sound **Geographic Twp:**..... Cardwell, Watt, Medora, Humphrey
Municipality:..... Township of Muskoka Lakes **MNR Admin. Area:**..... Bracebridge
 Township of Seguin
Lat./Long: 45.1739 N 79.5850 W **UTM (NAD83):** 17 611186 5003242
Topographic Map (1:50,000):..... 31E04 **Drainage Basin:** Lake Rosseau

Physical Features

Surface Area (ha):..... 6390 **Maximum Depth (m):** 89 **Mean Depth (m):**..... 24
Elevation (m asl):..... 225 **Perimeter (km):**..... 151 **Island Shoreline (km):**..... 80
Volume (10⁴ m³):..... 153000 **Watershed (km²):**..... 204 **Water Clarity (m):** 5.4
 (excludes area of lake)

Land Use and Development

Crown Land (%): 0 **Provincial Parks:**..... none
Shoreline Development: intense; urban, commercial, shoreline residential
Access:..... public; public boats launches at Rosseau, Port Carling, Skeleton Bay;
 private access at numerous marinas;
 navigation lock from Lake Muskoka at Port Carling
 water access from Lake Joseph at Port Sandfield and Joseph River
Water Level Management: regulated; water level is controlled by an MNR owned and operated dam at Port Carling;
 flows and levels are regulated by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan

Fish Species

Major Fish Species:..... lake trout, lake whitefish, cisco (lake herring), walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass,
 muskellunge (I), northern pike, burbot, black crappie (I 1987)
Other Fish Species:..... rainbow smelt (I), spottail shiner, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, creek chub,
 rock bass (I 1987), ninespine stickleback, margined madtom (I?), white sucker, golden shiner,
 slimy sculpin, yellow perch, bluntnose minnow
Other Species:..... spiny water flea (I 1989)

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>	designated; natural reproduction; not at development capacity
<i>Fishing Regulation Exceptions</i>	no lake-specific exceptions
<i>Current Stocking:</i>	none
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i>	smallmouth bass (1950), rainbow trout (1975), walleye (1984), lake trout (1990)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	lake trout, lake whitefish, cisco, smallmouth bass, rock bass
<i>Assessment:</i>	<i>Completed Projects:</i>
	1977 lake survey
	1988-2003, 2005, 2006 winter creel survey
	2005-2009, annual ice hut count
	1992, 1999 summer creel survey
	1993-1996 Spring Littoral Index Netting (lake trout)
	1995-1996 small fish survey
	1996, 1998, 1999, 2001 Near Shore Community Index Netting
	1993-1995 bass spawning observations
	1990 vegetation mapping
	1993 substrate mapping
	1988-1989 critical habitat mapping
	1990-1992 water chemistry
	1991 lake trout spawning observations
	1989-1994 zoo plankton and benthic invertebrate sampling
	1989, 1993 contaminant sampling
	2002-2003 bathymetric mapping
	2002-2006 Summer Profundal Index Netting (SPIN) (lake trout)
	2007-2008 Broad-scale Monitoring (BsM) (small and large mesh gill netting)
	2009 SPIN
	2011 SPIN, BsM (large mesh nets)

Synopsis

Lake Rosseau is a large, deep, clear oligotrophic lake. It is one of the largest and best lake trout lakes in Parry Sound District, possessing excellent lake trout habitat and supporting a large, primarily winter, fishery. It is intermediate in water clarity, between Lake Joseph (clearer) and Lake Muskoka (more tea stained). Similarly, its' fish community is intermediate to the others. Whereas Lake Joseph is predominantly a lake trout lake, Lake Rosseau also has significant populations of walleye and pike; though not to the extent that Lake Muskoka does.

The lake is a core lake of the Muskoka Lakes Fisheries Assessment Unit and a large body of inventory and assessment data exists. Efforts have been focused largely on assessment of the lake trout population. A review and analysis of the last 10 years of data is currently being done.

Updated: 2012

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

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