Ministry of Natural Resources

Ontario

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Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Mary Lake

Location

Official Name: ..... Mary Lake	*Local Names:* .....
County/District: .....Muskoka	*Geographic Twp:*.....Stephenson, Brunel
Municipality:.....Town of Huntsville	*MNR Admin. Area:* .....Bracebridge
Lat./Long: ..... 45.2458 N 79.2553 W	*UTM (NAD83):* 17 636921 5011740
Topographic Map (1:50,000): 31E03	*Drainage Basin:*.....North Muskoka River

Physical Features

Surface Area (ha): 1061	*Maximum Depth (m):* 56	*Mean Depth (m):*..... 25
Elevation (m asl):.....281	*Perimeter (km):*..... 20.5	*Island Shoreline (km):*..... 3.6
Volume (10^4 m^3):.....26525	*Watershed (km^2):*..... 1410 (excludes area of lake)	*Water Clarity (m):* 3.4

Land Use and Development

Crown Land (%):.....0 *Provincial Parks:*.....none

Shoreline Development: ..... intense; urban, commercial, shoreline residential

Access:.....public; boat launch at Port Sydney; navigation lock from Fairy Lake; marinas

Water Level Management: ..... regulated; water level is controlled by an MNR owned and operated dam at Port Sydney. ..... Water levels are governed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan

Fish Species

Major Fish Species:.....lake trout (S), lake whitefish (S), northern pike (I), smallmouth bass (I), largemouth bass, ...walleye (I), burbot, brook trout (E)

Other Fish Species:.....pumpkinseed, trout-perch, white sucker, brown bullhead, golden shiner, rainbow smelt (I 1956), ... yellow perch, bluntnose minnow, longnose sucker

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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Mary Lake

Fisheries Management

Fisheries Management Zone:.....15

Designation for Lake Trout Management: ..... designated; put-grow-take; not at development capacity

The put-grow-take designation is provisional pending attempts to rehabilitate self-sustaining populations in the Huntsville Lakes system

Fishing Regulation Exceptions ..... no lake-specific exceptions

Current Stocking:

Lake trout; rehabilitation stocking is being attempted using lake trout eggs collected in Lake of Bays.....

Lake whitefish; rehabilitation stocking is being attempted using adult fish from Lake of Bays and fingerlings from Lake Simcoe

Historic Stocking (last year stocked):..... smallmouth bass (1920), walleye (1942), brook trout (1945), rainbow trout (1968)

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

Assessment: Completed Projects:

1961	lake survey
1968	fish community sampling
1970	lake survey
1975-77	lake trout spawning observations
1977	contaminant sampling
1987-93	lake trout spawning observations
1991	lake trout spawning observations
1993	Spring Littoral Index Netting (lake trout)
2003-11	Summer Profundal Index Netting (targets lake trout)
2008	lake trout spawning observations, shoal mapping and fry trapping
2009	Huntsville lakes management review
2009	adult whitefish transfer from Lake of Bays

water chemistry profiles are collected on a regular basis

Synopsis

The native fish community of Mary Lake was dominated by lake trout, lake whitefish cisco and brook trout. A long series of introductions of non-native species, intentional and otherwise have transformed the community. Lake trout are currently maintained by stocking; whitefish, cisco and brook trout are virtually extirpated and warm water species such as bass and pike are now abundant.

The walleye population is the most recent arrival. Recent observations and angler reports indicate a population is becoming established, presumable through downstream dispersal from a growing population in Lake Vernon and the other Huntsville Lakes It is expected that the population will expand, as the lake and river provide fairly good habitat for this species.

The creel survey conducted in the winter of 2008 found that fishing pressure is moderate. Summer effort is probably higher but has not been quantified.

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A major review of fisheries management in the Huntsville Lakes, including Mary Lake, was done in 2009. A copy may be obtained on request from the Bracebridge MNR office. One of the recommendations of the report was to attempt to rehabilitate the cold water fish community. Beginning in 2009 lake trout eggs were collected in Lake of Bays. They will be reared to yearlings and re-stocked into Mary Lake. It is hoped that use of a local strain will improve the chance of successful natural reproduction. Also, in 2009 a re-introduction of lake whitefish began. This project includes stocking of fingerling whitefish of the Lake Simcoe strain and a transfer of adult fish from Lake of Bays.

As of 2011, three years of lake trout egg collections from Lake of Bays have occurred. In 2009 and 2010 the eggs were reared at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association hatchery, to be stocked as yearlings. In 2011, fertilized eggs were stocked directly into Mary Lake.

From 2008 to 2011, adult lake whitefish were transferred live from Lake of Bays to Mary Lake in an attempt to re-establishing a self-sustaining population in Mary Lake. In the same years, fingerling whitefish, originating from eggs collected in Lake Simcoe, and reared at the White Lake Fish Culture Station, were also stocked. SPIN netting in 2011 captured several adult whitefish of Lake of Bays origin and one two year older whitefish of Lake Simcoe origin.

Updated: 2012

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

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