

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Bella Lake

Location

Official Name:..... Bella Lake **Local Names:**.....
County/District:..... Muskoka **Geographic Twp:**..... Sinclair
Municipality:..... Township of Lake of Bays **MNR Admin. Area:**..... Bracebridge
Lat./Long:..... 45.445 N 79.031 W **UTM (NAD83):**..... 17 620085 4989820
Topographic Map (1:50,000):..... 31E06 **Drainage Basin:**..... Big East River

Physical Features

Surface Area (ha):..... 327 **Maximum Depth (m):**..... 40 **Mean Depth (m):**..... 13
Elevation (m asl):..... 356 **Perimeter (km):**..... 14 **Island Shoreline (km):**..... 0
Volume (10⁴ m³):..... 4860 **Watershed (km²):**..... 13.3 **Water clarity (m):**..... 4.6
 (excludes area of lake)

Land Use and Development

Crown Land (%):..... 0 **Provincial Parks:**..... none
Shoreline Development:..... high; shoreline residential
Access:..... public; informal launch on beach on Fieldale Road just north of bridge between Bella and Rebecca Lakes
Water Level Management:..... not regulated

Fish Species

Major Fish Species:..... brook trout (R), lake trout, burbot, smallmouth bass(I)
Other Fish Species:..... rainbow smelt(I), round whitefish, lake whitefish (?), cisco, pearl dace, white sucker, pumpkinseed,
 rock bass(I), yellow perch, golden shiner (2011), common shiner (2011), bluntnose minnow (2011)
Other Species:..... spiny water flea (I 2001)

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>	only one line may be used when angling through the ice lake trout- none between 45-55 cm (15.7-21.7 in)
<i>Current Stocking:</i>	none
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i>	brook trout (1956), lake trout (1991)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	lake trout, smallmouth bass
<i>Assessment:</i>	Completed Projects:
	1971 Lake Survey Summary
	1977 Contaminant Monitoring
	1987 Lake Trout Spawning Observations
	1991 Lake Trout Spawning Observations
	1991 Winter Creel Survey
	2003 Aquatic vegetation and Substrate Mapping
	2006 Summer Profundal Index Netting (lake trout)
	2011 Broad-scale Monitoring and Summer Profundal Index Netting (lake trout)
Dissolved oxygen profiles are measured on a regular basis.	

Synopsis

Ten of the 28 lake trout sampled during the winter of 1991 were unclipped fish. Since the lake was stocked regularly prior to the 1991 winter creel (5600 fish since 1986), the 36% unclipped fish was considered significant. The relatively low catch rate of 0.08 fish/angler hour and extremely high harvest rate of 3.5 kg/ha indicated that harvest controls were required to sustain a balanced and healthy fish community. Based on the above considerations supplementary stocking was discontinued after 1991 and special regulations were imposed for lake trout fishing on Bella Lake commencing with the start of the 1996 fishing season.

Index netting was conducted in 2006. It was found that about 1/3 of the lake trout caught were stocked fish originating from neighbouring Rebecca Lake. Straying of stocked lake trout, particularly upstream is quite common.

Bella Lake is a 'fixed' lake for the provincial Broad-scale Monitoring program. It is one of the lakes randomly chosen to monitor the long term condition of lake trout lakes in FMZ 15. The first cycle of monitoring was done in 2011. Three previously undocumented fish species were detected: golden shiner, common shiner and bluntnose minnow. It is likely that all three species are native to the lake

Updated: 2012

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

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