

*Natural. Valued. Protected.*

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

# Oxbow Lake

Location	
<i>Official Name:</i> ..... Oxbow Lake	<i>Local Names:</i> ..... Fatty's Lake
<i>County/District:</i> .....District of Muskoka	<i>Geographic Twp:</i> .....Finlayson
<i>Municipality:</i> ..... Township of Lake of Bays	<i>MNR Admin. Area:</i> .....Bracebridge
<i>Lat./Long:</i> ..... 45.442 N 78.971 W	<i>UTM (NAD83):</i> ..... 17 658715 5034081
<i>Topographic Map (1:50,000):</i> ..... 31E07	<i>Drainage Basin:</i> ..... Oxtongue River

Physical Features		
<i>Surface Area (ha):</i> .....170	<i>Maximum Depth (m):</i> ..... 34	<i>Mean Depth (m):</i> ..... 11
<i>Elevation (m asl):</i> .....379	<i>Perimeter (km):</i> ..... 13.0	<i>Island Shoreline (km):</i> .....0.3
<i>Volume (10<sup>4</sup> m<sup>3</sup>):</i> .....1921	<i>Watershed (km<sup>2</sup>):</i> ..... 30.5 (excludes area of lake)	<i>Water Clarity:</i> .....4.3

Land Use and Development	
<i>Crown Land (%):</i> ..... 35	<i>Provincial Parks:</i> ..... none
<i>Shoreline Development:</i> ..... Moderate; shoreline residential, Camp Olympia	
<i>Access:</i> ..... Public; boat launch is located at the south end of the west arm of the lake	
<i>Water Level Management:</i> ..... Not regulated	

Fish Species
<i>Major Fish Species:</i> ..... lake whitefish, lake trout (S), brook trout (R), smallmouth bass (I) ..... burbot, northern pike (I 2015)
<i>Other Fish Species:</i> ....cisco, round whitefish, rainbow smelt (I) yellow perch, pumpkinseed, brook stickleback ..... white sucker, fathead minnow, northern redbelly dace, rock bass (I 2011)
<i>Other Species:</i>

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; put-grow-take; at development capacity
<i>Fishing Regulation Exceptions:</i> .....	Lake trout open all year (2009)
<i>Current Stocking:</i> .....	Lake trout – put-grow-take, no natural reproduction expected ..... stocked every two years with yearlings.
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i> .....	brook trout (1965)
<i>Contaminants:</i> .....	Fish have not been tested by MOE for their suitability for human consumption.
<i>Assessment:</i>	Completed Projects:
	1972 lake survey
	1978 lake trout assessment
	1997 Spring Littoral Index Netting (lake trout)
	2013 winter creel survey
	2014 Summer Profundal Index Netting
	Dissolved oxygen profiles are collected on a regular basis

### Synopsis

The 1997 SLIN of the lake trout population of Oxbow Lake revealed a moderate abundance of large fish with only 14% of natural origin. Although 5 out of 8 lake trout sampled in 1978 were not marked, it is likely that only the smallest (700 g) of the unmarked fish was of natural origin given the large mean size of the remaining 4 lake trout (4,600g). A biological survey report in 1962 indicated that “good lake trout fishing was reported to have taken place from around 1910 through to mid 1940’s”. Since the stocking records indicate that lake trout were first stocked in 1947 that would suggest Oxbow Lake did have significant potential for natural recruitment. Temperature-oxygen profiles indicate that sufficient habitat exists to have supported a moderate native lake trout population. Results from the 1997 SLIN further support this based on the existence of a healthy coldwater fish community including lake whitefish, round whitefish, and rainbow smelt.

Beginning in 1999, lake trout anglers on Oxbow Lake will have the ability to fish throughout the year for lake trout as it will continue to be stocked and will be managed as a put-grow-take lake trout fishery.

An anecdotal report was received in 2011 that rock bass have become established in the lake. Their origin is not known. Rock bass were also detected by MNR test nets in adjoining Dotty Lake in 2011. Rock bass are an invasive species that will impact the abundance of other species through competition and depredation.

The 2013 winter survey documented a moderate amount of fishing activity and no huts were present on the lake. Angler-submitted fish samples from Dotty Lake in 2013 and 2014 revealed that a significant proportion were lake trout that had been stocked in Oxbow Lake and apparently moved upstream under Limberlost Road into Dotty Lake.

In 2014, a Summer Profundal Index Netting survey, which targets lake trout, was done. A total of 9 lake trout were caught in 23 short duration sets; a moderately low catch rate. All of the lake trout were stocked

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fish and of small to moderate size. The absence of any naturally reproduced fish may be an artefact of the small sample size as anglers do report catching unmarked fish.

A report was received in early 2015 that a northern pike had been caught in the lake. The fish was retained but it is quite likely that others are present and that a reproducing population will be established. This is a negative development in terms of impact to the remnant brook trout that occur in adjoining Dotty Lake.

Updated: 2015

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

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