

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Stewart Lake

Location:	
MNR District:	Parry Sound
Geographic Township:	Freeman & Medora
Municipal Township:	Georgian Bay & Muskoka Lakes
Watershed:	Muskoka River
Fisheries Mgmt Zone:	15

Basin and Terrain Characteristics:	
Lake Survey Year:	1973
Surface Area:	150.3 hectares
Maximum Depth:	20.4 meters
Mean Depth:	7.1 meters (1985)
Perimeter:	10.1 km
Island shoreline:	0.5 km
Littoral Zone:	53%
Shoreline Development:	100 Cottages, 1 Resort (1975)
Access Points:	Road (Public)
Water Level:	Not Regulated
Crown Land:	10% Shoreline

Water Quality:	
Secchi reading:	2.6 - 3.25 meters
Colour:	Yellow/Brown
Dissolved Oxygen:	Anoxic Hypolimnion < 0.8 mg/l (1998)
Alkalinity:	20.5 mg/l
pH:	7.0; 6.5 (1974)
Total Phosphorus:	1.1 ug/l (1974)
M.E.I.:	8.7
<p>“Guide to eating fish”: Fish in watersheds draining into Georgian Bay generally have high levels of mercury. This is due to natural, high background levels of mercury present in the watershed – not man-made contamination. A precautionary approach to fish consumption is recommended. We recommend you search the guide for an alternate large lake in your watershed and apply those consumption guidelines to your lake of interest. Extra caution should be exercised by women of child-bearing age and for children.</p> <p>The <i>Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish</i> is available electronically at: www.ene.gov.on.ca.</p>	

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Fisheries:

Game Fish Species: Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass (I 2011), Northern Pike (I 1985), Black Crappie (I 2012), Splake stocked to create artificial, Put-Grow-Take (PGT) angling opportunities.

Other species present: Rainbow Smelt (I), White Sucker, Golden Shiner, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass (I 2012)

Exotic Species: Splake, Rainbow Trout and Lake Trout have all been stocked at various times in the past for artificial angling opportunities.

Stocking Record:

The lake is not currently being stocked due to the presence of several predator species

2000-2010 Splake
1999-2000 Rainbow trout
1961-1966 Lake trout
1945-1961 Smallmouth bass

Summary of Fisheries Studies / Reports:

2011

- A Broad-scale Monitoring survey was completed by researchers from Laurentian University, to collect data for a study on the effect of climate change on the feeding ecology of walleye and smallmouth bass. By comparing lakes with one or both species they hope to explore how the spread of bass into northern lakes will impact walleye. Several species not previously documented in the lake were caught. Yellow perch may be native but have not been detected before. Rock bass, largemouth bass and black crappie are not native and have become established by illegal introductions.

MOE 1975 **Water Quality** of Stewart Lake

- The lake has a flushing rate 2.3 years
- Chlorophyll 'a' averaged 4.2 ug/l ranging from 2.3 to 6.0

Management Prescription:

- Manage as a natural, self-sustaining warm water fishery
- No exceptions to generic fishing regulations.

Updated: 2012

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

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