

*Natural. Valued. Protected.*

## Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District Island Lake

Location	
Official Name:.....Island Lake	Local Names:..... Proudfoot Lake
County/District:.....Parry Sound	Geographic Twp:.....Proudfoot
Municipality:.....Town of Kearney	MNR Admin. Area:.....Bracebridge
Lat./Long:.....45.687 N -79.238 W	UTM (NAD83):..... 17 637178 5060745
Topographic Map (1:50,000):.....31E11	Drainage Basin:..... North Magnetawan River

Physical Features		
Surface Area (ha):.....130	Maximum Depth (m):..... 29	Mean Depth (m):..... 10
Elevation (m asl):.....396	Perimeter (km):..... 8.7	Island Shoreline (km):..... 1.2
Volume (10 <sup>4</sup> m <sup>3</sup> ):.....1300	Watershed (km <sup>2</sup> ):..... 7.3	Water Clarity (m):.....7.1 (excludes area of lake)

Land Use and Development	
Crown Land (%):..... 10	Provincial Parks:..... none
Shoreline Development:.....	Moderate; shoreline residential
Access:.....	Public; boat launch with limited parking; follow Chetwynd Rd to Island L Rd
Water Level Management:.....	Not regulated

Fish Species
Major Fish Species:..... lake trout (S), brook trout (R), yellow perch, smallmouth bass (I), ..... cisco (lake herring), rock bass (I)
Other Fish Species:..... finescale dace, northern redbelly dace, white sucker, longnose sucker, .....creek chub, brown bullhead
Other Species:.....

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

*Fisheries Management Zone:*..... 15

*Designation for Lake Trout Management:*..... designated; natural reproduction; at development capacity

*Fishing Regulation Exceptions:*..... No lake-specific exceptions (2009)

*Current Stocking:*..... Lake trout – supplemental, some natural reproduction occurs  
..... stocked every two years with 2 year olds

*Historic Stocking (last year stocked):*..... brook trout (1961)

*Contaminants (species tested):*..... lake trout, brook trout, smallmouth bass

*Assessment:*

Completed Projects:

- 1970 lake survey
- 1982 lake trout population assessment
- 1999 Spring Littoral Index Netting (lake trout)
- 2005 Summer Profundal Index Netting (lake trout)

Dissolved oxygen profiles are collected on a regular basis

## Synopsis

The 1970 lake survey, based on a sample of 8 brook trout and 3 lake trout, suggested that both populations were native and self-supporting. The lake had never been stocked with lake trout prior to 1970, and brook trout had not been stocked since 1961.

It is difficult to assign management recommendations to Island Lake given the inconsistency between past survey results. Specifically, there is uncertainty regarding the strength and reproductive status of the lake trout population.

The 1982 survey captured four lake trout, three of which were fin clipped, despite there being no stocking records of lake trout prior to that time.

In 1995, 11 lake trout were caught, all of which were fin clipped. They were of two distinct sizes. The five large fish had the same adipose fin clip as the three fish caught in 1982. The five smaller fish (average ~32 cm) had a 1991 clip, indicating they were 5 years old – a very slow rate of early growth.

In 1999, again, two distinct size groups were caught, but this time most of the smaller fish did not have a hatchery fin clip, suggested they were naturally reproduced. Also, like 1995, the early growth was very slow with fish in the 30 cm long range being 5 or 6 years old.

Finally, the 2005 caught only two lake trout, neither of which was fin clipped.

So, the more recent assessments conflict with the earlier two. Possibilities include that natural reproduction has increased in the lake, fish were not properly fin clipped or clips were not properly recorded.

In all assessments large numbers of small cisco (lake herring) in the 15-20 cm size class were caught. They are likely causing a serious community imbalance and may be the cause of the very slow early  
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growth of lake trout (competing for the same food) followed by a transition to rapid lake trout growth, once they become large enough to feed on cisco.

The water quality for lake trout is fairly good but the volume of available juvenile habitat is limited. The potential for natural lake trout is further hindered by the high cisco abundance. Finally, several nearby lakes with greater potential for natural reproduction have special regulations prohibiting winter fishing and there is probably demand for winter fishing opportunities to offset these closures. Combined, these factors suggest that continued stocking of lake trout should occur, despite the possibility that some natural reproduction is occurring.

Beginning in 2010 a trial will be done try to address the problem of slow early growth. Lake trout will be stocked as two year olds, instead of yearlings. It is hoped that if they are stocked at a larger size, they will have better survival and will be able to make the transition to feeding on herring more quickly.

Updated: 2015

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

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