

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Ben Lake

Location

Official Name: Ben Lake Local Names:
 County/District: Muskoka Geographic Twp: Ryde
 Municipality: Town of Gravenhurst MNR Admin. Area: Bracebridge
 Lat./Long: 44.891 N 79.204 W UTM (NAD83): 17 641762 4972484
 Topographic Map (1:50,000): 31D14 Drainage Basin: Kaskashe River

Physical Features

Surface Area (ha): 33 Maximum Depth (m): 10 Mean Depth (m): 3
 Elevation (m asl): 267 Perimeter (km): 2.4 Island Shoreline (km): 0
 Volume (10^4 m^3): 106 Watershed (km^2): 2.6 Water Clarity (m): 4
 (excludes area of lake)

Land Use and Development

Crown Land (%): 0 Provincial Parks: none
 Shoreline Development: low; shoreline residential
 Access: public?; may be accessible by road allowance off Ben Lake Road E
 Water Level Management: not regulated

Fish Species

Major Fish Species: smallmouth bass (I), yellow perch, largemouth bass (?), walleye (?)
 Other Fish Species: brown bullhead, bowfin (I?), white sucker, lake chub, pumpkinseed,
 blackchin shiner, blacknose shiner, creek chub,
 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

<i>Fisheries Management Zone:</i>	15
<i>Designation for Lake Trout Management:</i>	not designated
<i>Fishing Regulation Exceptions</i>	no lake-specific exceptions
<i>Current Stocking:</i>	none
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i>	smallmouth bass (1963), largemouth bass (1963)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	none
<i>Assessment:</i>	<i>Completed Projects:</i>
	1955 lake survey
	1975 lake survey

Synopsis

The original and current status of the fish community in Ben Lake is poorly known. The only major fish species caught in the 1975 survey were perch and suckers. However, the 1955 survey states that local residents thought bass were native to the lake, but it had already been settled from some time and early, undocumented stocking may have occurred. Largemouth were stocked in the 1960's but a note on file from 1986 indicates only smallmouth bass as being present. More recently a Conservation Officer reported observing angler caught walleye. Most curiously, a dead bowfin was brought to the MNR office in 1997, reportedly found on the shore of the lake. The closest natural occurrence of that we know of is the in the Severn River system. It may have been brought in by accident with baitfish or other illegally stocked fish. It is not known if a population has become established.

Updated: January 2011

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

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