

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Riley Lake

Location

Official Name: Riley Lake Local Names:
 County/District: Muskoka Geographic Twp: Ryde
 Municipality: Town of Gravenhurst MNR Admin. Area: Bracebridge
 Lat./Long: 44.840 N, 79.182 W UTM (NAD83): 17 643667 4966815
 Topographic Map (1:50,000): 312D14 Drainage Basin: Black River

Physical Features

Surface Area (ha): 155 Maximum Depth (m): 15 Mean Depth (m): 5.4
 Elevation (m asl): 246 Perimeter (km): 22 Island Shoreline (km): 2.0
 Volume (10^4 m^3): 837 Watershed (km^2): 42 Water Clarity (m): 2.5
 (excludes area of lake)

Land Use and Development

Crown Land (%): 10 Provincial Parks: none
 Shoreline Development: high; shoreline residential
 Access: public; Riley Lake Road
 Water Level Management: not regulated

Fish Species

Major Fish Species: largemouth bass (I), smallmouth bass (I), black crappie (I pre 2006)
 northern pike (I pre 2011), walleye (2013)
 Other Fish Species: cisco (lake herring), yellow perch, golden shiner, blacknose shiner, pumpkinseed,
 rock bass (I pre 2012), white sucker, 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

<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>	walleye (1939), smallmouth bass (1961)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	no testing done
<i>Assessment:</i>	<i>Completed Projects:</i>
	1959 lake survey
	1975 lake survey
	2012 contaminant sampling
	2013 fish community assessment

Synopsis

The original fish community of Riley Lake is not well documented. There is an anecdotal report in the file that brook trout may have occurred; if so, they have been extirpated. Largemouth and smallmouth bass are the dominant sport fish species; both species may be introduced. Reliable anecdotal observations of the presence of northern pike and rock bass have been received as well, but the dates of their first occurrence area not known. Black crappies have become established; presumably through an intentional but unauthorized introduction. A significant winter fishery for them has developed. Crappies seem to perform very well in lakes like Riley that have a considerable depth but only modest water clarity. The moderate depth provides a small amount of cold-water habitat. The relative darkly stained water results in a shallow thermocline and by late summer waters deeper than about 4 m have virtually no oxygen. Despite that, cisco manage to survive in the lake.

In 2012, the Ministry of the Environment collected samples of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike and black crappie for analysis of contaminants. Results will be published in the 'Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish'.

The 2013 survey used a combination of gill nets and trap nets to collect data intended to be used in a comparison of fish community and population attributes in similar lakes with and without introduced crappie. The survey found that smallmouth bass was the dominant sport fish species; the population was robust with a large range of ages and sizes present. Surprisingly, a number of walleye of two distinct size groups were caught; it is speculated that the population is comprised of an initial illegal stocking and a small number of their offspring. The lake provides reasonable habitat for adult walleye but spawning habitat appears to be very scarce and survival of fry may be limited through competition and depredation by crappie.

Updated: 2014

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

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