

Natural. Valued. Protected.

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

Blue Chalk Lake

Location

Official Name:..... Blue Chalk Lake Local Names:..... Clear Lake
 County/District:..... Muskoka Geographic Twp:..... Ridout
 Municipality:..... Township of Lake of Bays MNR Admin. Area:..... Bracebridge
 Lat./Long:..... 45.198 N 78.938 W UTM (NAD83):..... 17 661951 5007021
 Topographic Map (1:50,000):..... 31E02 Drainage Basin:..... Black River

Physical Features

Surface Area (ha):..... 50 Maximum Depth (m):..... 22 Mean Depth (m):..... 9
 Elevation (m asl):..... 335 Perimeter (km):..... 4.5 Island Shoreline (km):..... 0
 Volume (10^4 m^3):..... 472 Watershed (km^2):..... 1.2 Water Clarity (m):..... 5.6
 (excludes area of lake)

Land Use and Development

Crown Land (%):..... 85 Provincial Parks:..... none
 Shoreline Development:..... low; shoreline residential
 Access:..... private
 Water Level Management:..... not regulated

Fish Species

Major Fish Species:..... largemouth bass (I 2004), brook trout, lake trout, yellow perch
 Other Fish Species:..... brown bullhead, white sucker, slimy sculpin, pumpkinseed, burbot,
 golden shiner, common shiner, blacknose shiner, creek chub, bluntnose minnow,
 northern redbelly dace, fathead minnow, spoonhead sculpin, lake chub (2014)
 Other Species:..... Virile Crayfish

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; natural reproduction; at development capacity
<i>Fishing Regulation Exceptions</i>	Lake trout open from 3rd Sat. in May - Sept. 30
<i>Current Stocking:</i>	none
<i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i>	rainbow trout (1962), brook trout (1967), lake trout (1994)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	lake trout, white sucker
<i>Assessment:</i>	Completed Projects:
	1931 lake report card
	1960 lake survey
	1969 lake survey
	1979 contaminant sampling
	1989 lake trout spawning observations
	2004 Nordic fish community netting
	2009 Nordic fish community netting

Synopsis

Blue Chalk Lake supports a native self-sustaining population of lake trout. All the surveys have noted that at least some of the lake trout have a unique colouration; silvery and lacking the typical spots. Several other lakes in the region have been observed to have similar colouration and work is underway to determine if these fish are of a unique genetic strain. Supplemental stocking of lake trout, which has now been discontinued, may have resulted in hybridization of the native fish with stocked fish.

Consistent with the southern region natural trout strategy, winter fishing for lake trout is not permitted on Blue Chalk Lake to protect the sensitive native population from over-harvest.

A previous version of this fact sheet stated that was almost miraculous that bass had not become established in the lake considering how ubiquitous they have become either through authorized or illegal stocking. Well, largemouth bass have now been documented (2004). They have most likely become established through an illegal introduction. Bass will compete with and impact the lake trout population, particularly in a small lake; considering the possibly unique genetic status of the lake trout population, it is very unfortunate that bass have become established.

Brook trout were noted to be native to the lake and have been stocked in the past. However, none have been caught in recent assessments, indicating the population may be small or absent, particularly in light of the bass introduction.

The water quality of Blue Chalk Lake is monitoring intensively by the Ministry of the Environment Dorset Environmental Research Centre. Monitoring has occurred for more than 30 years and the information collected has contributed to our understanding of the impacts of acid rain, invasive species and climate change.

Spoonhead sculpin were caught in the 2004 Nordic netting survey. This seldom-seen species has been documented in only one other lake in the District.

Updated: 2015

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

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