

*Natural. Valued. Protected.*

## Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District Harp Lake

### Location

Official Name:..... Harp Lake    Local Names:.....Nearcut Lake  
 County/District:.....Muskoka    Geographic Twp:.....Chaffey  
 Municipality:.....Town of Huntsville    MNR Admin. Area:.....Bracebridge  
 Lat./Long:.....45.379 N 79.135 W    UTM (NAD83):.....17 646018 5026765  
 Topographic Map (1:50,000):.....31E06    Drainage Basin:.....Mary Lake

### Physical Features

Surface Area (ha):.....72    Maximum Depth (m):.....34    Mean Depth (m):.....12  
 Elevation (m asl):.....326    Perimeter (km):.....4    Island Shoreline (km):.....0  
 Volume (10<sup>4</sup> m<sup>3</sup>):.....832    Watershed (km<sup>2</sup>):.....5.6    Water Clarity (m):.....6.5  
 (excludes area of lake)

### Land Use and Development

Crown Land (%):.....0    Provincial Parks:.....none  
 Shoreline Development:.....high; shoreline residential  
 Access:.....public; boat launch located off Harp Lake Road at northwest side of lake  
 Water Level Management:.....not regulated

### Fish Species

Major Fish Species:.....smallmouth bass (I), yellow perch, brook trout (R), lake trout (S)  
 Other Fish Species:.....white sucker, cisco, pumpkinseed, burbot,  
 common shiner, creek chub, mottled sculpin (2010)  
 Other Species:.....spiny water flea (1993), northern clearwater 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; put-grow-take; at development capacity                                                   |
| <i>Fishing Regulation Exceptions</i> .....          | Lake trout open all year                                                                             |
| <i>Current Stocking:</i> .....                      | lake trout – put-grow-take, no natural reproduction expected, stocked every two years with yearlings |
| <i>Historic Stocking (last year stocked):</i> ..... | brook trout (1964)                                                                                   |
| <i>Contaminants (species tested):</i> .....         | lake trout, smallmouth bass, white sucker, cisco                                                     |
| <i>Assessment:</i>                                  | <i>Completed Projects:</i>                                                                           |
|                                                     | 1931 lake report card                                                                                |
|                                                     | 1962 lake survey                                                                                     |
|                                                     | 1971 lake survey                                                                                     |
|                                                     | 1979 contaminant sampling                                                                            |
|                                                     | 1979 lake trout population assessment                                                                |
|                                                     | 1995 Spring Littoral Index Netting (targets lake trout)                                              |
|                                                     | 2002 Nordic fish community netting                                                                   |
|                                                     | 2005 Nordic fish community netting                                                                   |
|                                                     | 2009 Nordic fish community netting                                                                   |
|                                                     | 2013 winter creel survey                                                                             |
|                                                     | 2014 Nordic fish community netting                                                                   |

### Synopsis

The 1931 report card lists Harp Lake as being ‘good for lake trout and speckled trout’. Although there are no records of stocking, smallmouth bass are not native to the lake. They were first noted to be present in 1962. Their presence has marginalized the brook (speckled) trout population and probably had an impact on the lake trout as well. By the time of the 1979 survey, probably due to a variety of stresses, lake trout reproduction was virtually absent. The lake has been stocked regularly since that time.

Harp Lake is used as a long term monitoring lake to study long term changes in water quality. Monitoring is done by the Ministry of the Environment Dorset Environmental Science Centre in Dorset. Because of the availability of this long term data, other researchers have chosen to use Harp Lake for their own studies, including work on plankton, fish and contaminants. Laurentian University has been conducting fish community assessments on a five year basis

The 2013 winter creel survey found that fishing effort for lake trout was fairly low.

Updated: 2016

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

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