

*Natural. Valued. Protected.*

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

# Axe Lake

Location:	
<b>MNR District:</b> .....	Parry Sound
<b>Geographic Township:</b> .....	Monteith, McMurrich & Stisted
<b>Municipal Township:</b> .....	McMurrich/Monteith & Huntsville
<b>Watershed:</b> .....	North Muskoka River
<b>Fisheries Mgmt Zone:</b> .....	15

Basin and Terrain Characteristics:	
<b>Lake Survey Year:</b> .....	1975
<b>Surface Area:</b> .....	265.3 hectares (1952)
<b>Maximum Depth:</b> .....	12.8 meters
<b>Mean Depth:</b> .....	2.5 meters
<b>Perimeter:</b> .....	10.3 km
<b>Island shoreline:</b> .....	0.3 km
<b>Littoral Zone:</b> .....	84%
<b>Shoreline Development:</b> .....	2 Cottages (at time of 1975 survey)
<b>Access Points:</b> .....	Road
<b>Water Level:</b> .....	Not Regulated (i.e. no dams)
<b>Crown Land:</b> .....	25% Shoreline

Water Quality:	
<b>Secchi reading:</b>	1.2 meters (depth to which an 8" black & white disc is visible)
<b>Colour:</b>	Yellow/Brown
<b>Alkalinity:</b>	6.8 mg/l - (1983) Extremely Sensitive 2 (MOE, 1989)
<b>pH:</b>	4.8
<b>M.E.I.:</b>	7.4
<p><b>“Guide to eating fish”:</b> No Information available. Axe Lake is at the top of the watershed and drains into Buck Lake. We suggest using Buck Lake information in lieu of none being available for Axe Lake. Buck Lake has consumption restrictions for game fish related to high mercury levels. This is natural, background mercury present in the watershed and not from man-made sources. Naturally high mercury levels are typical of many lakes in the Parry Sound Area.</p> <p>The <i>Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish</i> is available electronically at: <a href="http://www.ene.gov.on.ca">www.ene.gov.on.ca</a>.</p>	

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### Fisheries:

**Game Fish Species:** Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass (1945)

**Other Species:** White Sucker, Brown Bullheads, Pumpkinseed, Cisco (1954), Iowa Darter, Blacknose Shiner

**Introduced Species:** Largemouth bass have successfully introduced to this lake. Brook trout and rainbow trout have been previously stocked but there was no intention of creating a self-sustaining fishery. It is uncertain if the 1944 and 1945 plantings of smallmouth bass were an introductory or supplemental stocking.

**Stocking Record:** The lake is not currently being stocked.

1986 Largemouth Bass 20 adult  
1978 Largemouth Bass 206 adult  
1959 Speckled Trout 1,000 yearling  
1959 Kamloops Trout 1,000 yearling  
1958 Kamloops Trout 1,000 yearling  
1958 Speckled Trout 1,000 yearling  
1957 Kamloops Trout 3,000 yearling  
1957 Speckled Trout 3,000 yearling  
1956 Kamloops Trout 2,000 yearling  
1956 Speckled Trout 2,000 yearling  
1955 Speckled Trout 2,000 yearling  
1955 Kamloops Trout 2,000 yearling  
1954 Speckled Trout 2,000 yearling  
1954 Kamloops Trout 2,000 yearling  
1945 Smallmouth Bass 10,000 fry  
1944 Smallmouth Bass 800 fingerling

### Summary of Fisheries Studies / Reports:

OMNR 1986 **Lady Lake Largemouth Bass Study** (Draft)

- Bioassay type study in which largemouth bass were transferred from Axe Lake to Lady Lake to determine if receiving lake toxic
- Result is non-toxic after a two-week period. (no long-term conclusions)

Portions of an unidentified report indicating relative abundance of species from trapnets and minnow traps fished in Lorimer, Cranberry and **Axe** lakes. Also includes mean sizes of largemouth bass and northern pike; also stomach contents. Notation that work was conducted in 1986, although nature of study unknown. (See "A" fisheries binder – Parry Sound Area Office)

OMNR, 1982. Axe Lake – 1982 Bass Transfer Summary

- 396 largemouth bass live-captured from Axe Lake and transferred to eight lakes in the Parry Sound District (Santa, McLean, Carruthers, Plate, Tabor, Gilbank, Crawford & Love Lakes)

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OMNR 1981 August **Largemouth Bass Assessment** (found on Axe Lake file)

- 433 transferred from Axe Lake to four recipient lakes in the Parry Sound District (Manitouwaba Lake – 94; Shanty Lake – 99; Wilcox lake – 59; Horn Lake – 181)

OMNR 1981 July **Largemouth Bass Transfer**

- 145 transferred from Axe Lake to Nine Mile Lake

Keddy, P. A. 1980 **The coastal plain flora of an inland lake near Georgian Bay** (Draft)

- Rare Atlantic Coastal flora identified on Axe Lake

Walden, F. A., 1954 Management of The Fishery of The Muskoka River System, **A Brief Biological Study of Axe Lake** (Report found on Axe Lake file.)

- Smallmouth bass planting of 1944 and 1945 unsuccessful as no specimens found in survey
- Recommends attempting stocking Speckled and Kamloops trout as an experiment

### Management Prescription:

This lake is being managed as a natural, self-sustaining bass fishery. Generic sport fishing regulations for FMZ-15 apply; there are no exception regulations.

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

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