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Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District Bigwind Lake

Location	
Official Name:	Bigwind Lake
County/District:	Muskoka
Municipality:	Town of Bracebridge
Lat./Long:	45.057 N -79.054 W
Topographic Map (1:50,000):	31E03
Local Names:	
Geographic Twp:	Oakley
MNR Admin. Area:	Bracebridge
UTM (NAD83):	17 653209 4991118
Drainage Basin:	South Muskoka River

Physical Features		
Surface Area (ha):	108	Maximum Depth (m):
Elevation (m asl):	335	Perimeter (km):
Volume (10 ⁴ m ³):	842	Watershed (km ²):
		(excludes area of lake)
		Mean Depth (m):
		Island Shoreline (km):
		Water Clarity (m):

Land Use and Development	
Crown Land (%):	50
Provincial Parks:	Bigwind Lake
Shoreline Development:	low; shoreline residential, recreation camp
Access:	permitted: Hwy 118 E, to Bird L Rd, then Bigwind L Rd
Water Level Management:	not regulated

Fish Species	
Major Fish Species:	largemouth bass (I), lake trout (S), brook trout, yellow perch
Other Fish Species:	golden shiner, pumpkinseed, lake chub, whit sucker, creek chub, brown bullhead, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, northern redbelly dace
Other Species:	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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Bigwind Lake

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>	rainbow trout (1985), brook trout (1981)
<i>Contaminants (species tested):</i>	lake trout, rainbow trout, largemouth bass
<i>Assessment:</i>	Completed Projects:
	1971 Lake survey
	1981 Lake trout assessment program
	1992 Brook trout population assessment
	1998 Spring littoral index netting (SLIN)
	2008 Broad-scale Monitoring
	Dissolved oxygen profiles are collected on a regular basis

Synopsis

Although there are no lake records prior to 1971, it would appear that the lake was originally a native brook trout lake and did not contain lake trout until stocked in 1972. The presence of an abundant yellow perch population precludes brook trout stocking. There is no indication that lake trout naturally reproduce in Bigwind and as such there is no reason for harvest control.

Brook trout stocking was discontinued after 1991 and recent spawning observations in 1998 have identified spawning locations with congregations of fish over redds. The presence of naturally reproducing brook trout is further substantiated by the capture of two fish during the 1998 SLIN program.

The lake trout population as previously believed is comprised of mainly stocked fish. The 1998 SLIN program confirmed this with the capture of 20 lake trout exhibiting a fin clip indicating they were all of hatchery origin.

The lake has been chosen as a ‘fixed’ lake for the provincial Broad-scale Monitoring Program. Repeated sampling on a five year cycle is planned to monitor long-term trends in water quality, fish community and sport fish abundance in randomly selected lakes across the province. The first cycle of sampling occurred in 2008. Five brook trout were caught, indicating a substantial population continues to exist, despite the invasion of the lake by largemouth bass. The bass were inadvertently stocked.

Updated: February 2010

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

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