



PARRY SOUND AREA LAKE SUMMARIES



Brought to you compliments of:

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Crane Lake

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Location:

MNR District:..... Parry Sound
Geographic Township: Conger
Municipal Township: Archipelago
Watershed: Blackstone River
Angling Division: 15

Basin and Terrain Characteristics:

Lake Survey Year: 1973
Surface Area:..... 513.3 hectares
Maximum Depth: 32.0 meters
Mean Depth: 9.2 meters
Perimeter: 50.4 km
Island shoreline:
Littoral Zone:
Thermal Regime: Cold
Shoreline Development: 210 Cottages, 10 Resort Units, 48 Undeveloped Lots(1999)
Access Points: Road
Water Level: Regulated
Crown Land:

Water Quality:

(Parameters pertain to fisheries habitat only. For information on potability of water or contaminants, contact Min. of Health and Min. of Environment.)

Secchi reading: 5.5 meters
Colour: Blue Green

Dissolved Oxygen: Good at all levels (2000)
Alkalinity: 20.5 mg/l - Level 3 Moderately Sensitive (MOE, 1989)
pH: 6.8
Total Phosphorus: Average – 0.008 m/l (1998)
M.E.I.:

“Guide to eating fish”: Restrictions for Walleye, Largemouth Bass & Smallmouth Bass.
Refer to the current “Guide To Eating Ontario Sport Fish”.

Fisheries:

Game Fish Species: Smallmouth Bass (1969), Muskellunge (1964), Yellow Perch (1989),
Northern Pike (1979), Walleye (1994), Lake Trout (1989)

Other species present: Cisco (1989), Rainbow Smelt (1989), Burbot (1989)

Exotic Species:

Stocking Record: 2001 Lake Trout 2,500 yearlings
1999 Lake Trout 2,500 yearlings
1997 Lake Trout 2,500 yearlings
1995 Lake Trout 2500 yearlings
1994 Walleye 10,117 fingerlings
1993 Lake Trout 1,800 fingerlings
1992 Walleye 13,120 fingerling
1991 Lake Trout 2,500 yearling
1990 Walleye 7,000 fingerlings
1987 Lake Trout 3,150 yearling
1979 Lake Trout 5,000 yearling
1976 Lake Trout 3,000 27 months
1976 Walleye 109 adult
1974 Lake Trout 10,000 yearling
1973 Lake Trout 12,000 yearling
1972 Lake Trout 15,000 yearling
1964 Muskellunge 8,000 fry
1962 Muskellunge 10,000 fry
1961 Muskellunge 10,000 fry
1960 Muskellunge 5,000 fry
1958 Smallmouth Bass 900 fingerlings
1956 Muskellunge 20,000 fry
1955 Walleye 150,000 eggs
1954 Muskellunge 750 fingerling
1953 Smallmouth Bass 500 fingerling
1950 Walleye 100,000 egg
1949 Smallmouth Bass 400 fingerling
1947 Smallmouth Bass 5,000 fry
1947 Walleye 250,000 fry
1941 Walleye 100,000 fry
1940 Smallmouth Bass 1,000 fingerling
1939 Walleye 200,000 fry
1939 Smallmouth Bass 5,000 fry

Stress Type:

Use Type: Recreation, Recreational Fishing, Tourism Based Industry, Snowmobile Trail

Summary of Fisheries Studies / Reports:

McIntyre, E. 2002. Parry Sound Area 2001 **Fall Walleye Index Netting** (FWIN) Interim report.

- Walleye abundance low (CUE – 0.58 walleye per overnight gill-net set; regional average 3.0)
- Northern pike abundance low (CUE – 0.08; regional average 1.8)
- Smallmouth bass abundance high (CUE – 4.33; regional average 1.2)
- Muskellunge were only captured on one other lake in the South-central Region lakes and therefore no comparison is made. Four muskellunge were captured on Crane Lake during the survey.

Township of Archipelago, 2001 **Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystem Assessment** for Crane Lake – August 2000

- Recommends no further building lot development or road development.
- Long-term water quality monitoring program should be established.
- All residents should practice a high level of lake stewardship.

Blythe & Associates Biological Services, 1998. Crane Lake **Synoptic Trap-net Survey Report**.

- Muskellunge dominated the near-shore fish community comprising 40.1% of the total fish biomass caught in the survey.
- Walleye and smallmouth bass comprised 32 and 26% respectively.
- CUE indices for smallmouth bass were high (7.1 per net set), low for walleye (1.6) and very good for muskellunge (0.56). CUE indices were consistent with a prior study conducted in 1993.
- Introductions of smallmouth bass and muskellunge into this lake have been successful.
- Despite numerous stocking initiatives and a 10 year moratorium on walleye fishing, this species has not performed well in terms of natural recruitment.

1994 Crane Lake **Winter Creel Survey** (No report – Creesys analysis only)

- Five interviews were conducted observing 12 hours of angling activity. No fish were caught.

1993 Crane Lake **Trap-net Survey** (Summary only available)

- Walleye CUE low (1.3 walleye per 8' trap-net set)
- Smallmouth bass CUE average (5.6)
- Muskellunge CUE good (0.9)

Huston, L. 1993 **Walleye Rehabilitation**

- Chronological events from 1928 to 1992 listing walleye plantings.
- 1928 - 29 winter season saw hundreds of walleye dead after ice-out. Ice was thicker than normal at 30 inches as opposed to 24 inches.

Deary Environmental Consultants, 1990. **Summary Report for Lake Trout** (*Salvelinus namaycush*) Assessment of thirteen Lakes in the Parry Sound District

- 17 overnight gill-net sets in Crane lake resulted in the capture of 7 lake trout (arithmetic CUE of 0.4 trout per net night. This CUE value ranked 11th out of the 13 lake surveyed. CUE values ranged from 0.36 to 2.0.
- All 7 lake trout captured were planted fish; 6 from the 1987 planting and one presumed to be from the 1974 planting.

Microbiological Survey – Crane Lake 1989

- Observed bacteria densities were very low and well within MOE's objectives for swimming and bathing use.
- Springtime phosphorus concentrations for Crane Lake in 1989 averaged 5.8 mg/m³, a level 1 classification indicative of excellent water quality.

Thurston, L. 1981. **A Historical Review of Native Versus Non-native Lake Trout Lakes** in the Parry Sound District.

- Anecdotal interviews with knowledgeable long-time residents indicate Crane Lake never had a native lake trout population. The population is maintained wholly by planted fish.

1979 **Creel Census** Raw Data

- 10 rod hours yielded 5 lake trout.

Thurston, L. 1977. **Summary of two years (1976-77) of lake trout assessment** work Parry Sound District.

- 15 overnight gill-net sets resulted in the capture of no lake trout
- Notwithstanding the fact that Crane Lake failed to meet the criteria ascribed by Thurston for continued stocking (minimum CUE of 0.5), he recommended that plantings on Crane Lake continue based on 1976 results.

Thurston, L. 1976. **Assessment of Lake Trout Plantings** Parry Sound District.

- 16 overnight gill-net sets resulted in the capture of 13 lake trout.
- Thurston placed the success of lake trout plantings on Crane Lake in a category of “less than satisfactory and requiring additional evaluation”.

Management Prescription:

Additional prescriptions for walleye and muskellunge refer to current Recreational Fishing Regulation Guide.