

*Natural. Valued. Protected.*

Lake Fact Sheet – Parry Sound District

# Ril Lake

## Location

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<i>Official Name:</i> ..... Ril Lake	<i>Local Names:</i> .....
<i>County/District:</i> .....Muskoka	<i>Geographic Twp:</i> .....Ridout
<i>Municipality:</i> .....Township of Lake of Bays	<i>MNR Admin. Area:</i> .....Bracebridge
<i>Lat./Long:</i> .....45.164 N -79.013 W	<i>UTM (NAD83):</i> .....17 656131 5003138
<i>Topographic Map (1:50,000):</i> .....31E03	<i>Drainage Basin:</i> .....South Muskoka River
<i>Geographical Names of Canada</i> .....	<a href="http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/search/search_e.php">http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/search/search_e.php</a>

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## Physical Features

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<i>Surface Area (ha):</i> .....144	<i>Maximum Depth (m):</i> .....9.1	<i>Mean Depth (m):</i> .....3.4
<i>Elevation (m asl):</i> .....366	<i>Perimeter (km):</i> .....12.0	<i>Island Shoreline (km):</i> .....0.4
<i>Volume (10<sup>4</sup> m<sup>3</sup>):</i> .....490	<i>Watershed (km<sup>2</sup>):</i> .....17.0 (excludes area of lake)	

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## Water Quality

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The Ministry of the Environment is the lead provincial agency for water quality in Ontario. Many lakes are sampled through the volunteer-based Lake Partner Program. Some municipalities and non-government organizations (eg. cottage associations) also collect data. The Ministry of Natural Resources generally collects water quality information only for specific fisheries management purposes.

MOE Lake Partner Program:..... [www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/lake\\_partner/index.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/lake_partner/index.htm)  
 District Municipality of Muskoka:..... [www.muskokawaterweb.ca](http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca)

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## Land Use and Development

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<i>Crown Land (%):</i> ..... 25	<i>Provincial Parks:</i> ..... none
<i>Crown Land Use Policy Atlas:</i> .....	<a href="http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca/">http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca/</a>
<i>Shoreline Development:</i>	Intense; shoreline residential
<i>Access:</i>	Legal/ Ril Lake Roads 1 and 2
<i>Water Level Management:</i>	Not regulated.

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### Fish Species

Major Fish Species: largemouth bass (I), smallmouth bass (I), rock bass (I), brook trout (R), yellow perch

Other Fish Species: white sucker, bluntnose minnow

Other Species:

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

### Fisheries Management

*Fisheries Management Zone:*..... 15

*Designation for Lake Trout Management:*..... not designated

*Fishing Regulation Exceptions:* No lake-specific exceptions (2009);

Refer to current Regulation Summary for details: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/index.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/index.html)

*Current Stocking:* None

Current stocking list is available through ServiceOntario and MNR Area Offices

*Historic Stocking (last year stocked):* brook trout (1959), rainbow trout (1962)

Stocking may be discontinued for many reasons including successful occurrence of natural reproduction, low returns of stocked fish due to changing or poor habitat, incompatible fish community or change to management policy.

*Contaminants:* Fish have not been tested by MOE for their suitability for human consumption.

Mercury is the major contaminant in most inland lakes. Top predators, such as walleye or lake trout generally have higher levels of contaminants than species that feed lower on the food chain, such as whitefish and perch. Larger, older individuals of a species generally have more contaminants than smaller, younger individuals.

For species that have not been tested, we suggest using the guideline from a downstream lake in the same watershed or a nearby lake with similar water clarity and fish community.

Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish (MOE): [www.ene.gov.on.ca](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca)

*Assessment:* Completed Projects:

1969 Lake survey

### Synopsis

Brook trout was probably the only native sport fish species in Ril Lake. A Biological Survey Report from 1963 makes reference to the quality of the fishery as conflicting with some reporting brook trout in abundance and others denying the existence of trout being plentiful at any time. Brook trout have been stocked prior to 1959 and sampled during netting assessments.

Ril Lake is currently managed as a warm water fishery with the primary sport fish being smallmouth and largemouth bass. Evidence of the continued persistence of a remnant brook trout population exists in

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correspondence from a cottager on the lake indicated the bass fishing was good, and incidentally, their angling party had caught a 1 1/4lb. brook trout in 1988.

The lake file contains a large correspondence file back expressing the cottagers desire to improve the fishery. Unfortunately, small lakes with limited depth and established bass populations present minimal management options.

### Contact Information

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<i>General Inquiry:</i>	Service Ontario, 207 Main St. W Huntsville..... 705-789-4616
	Natural Resources Information Centre ..... 1-800-667-1940
	MNR Bracebridge Area Office ..... 705-645-8747
	MNR internet:..... <a href="http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca">www.mnr.gov.on.ca</a>
<i>Fisheries Management:</i>	District Fisheries Management Biologist: ..... 705-646-5523
	Sr. Fish and Wildlife Technician (Bracebridge) ... 705-646-5522
	Invading Species Hotline ..... 1-800-563-7711
<i>Water Levels:</i>	Water Management Specialist..... 705-646-5531
<i>Crown Land Management (Work Permits, Leases, etc.):</i>	..... 705-645-8747
<i>Enforcement:</i>	TIPS Line: ..... 1-877-847-7667

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### Bathymetry

The Ministry of Natural Resources has collected lake depth information for many lakes for fisheries management purposes. These maps are no longer being provided to the public. Maps of selected lakes, in the form of map books and outdoor guides, are available commercially through local outdoor product retailers.

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