



ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS

LAKE OF BAYS

District of Muskoka

Townships of Sherborne, Ridout,
McLean, Franklin, Brunel

PHYSICAL DATA

LATITUDE	45° 15'	LONGITUDE	79° 00'
SURFACE AREA	17,428 acres	VOLUME	1,270,809 acre feet
HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL	1,035 feet	PERIMETER	106 miles
MAXIMUM DEPTH	230 feet	MEAN DEPTH	73 feet

ORIGIN OF NAME

The Indians apparently called it Num g e low e nee g go mark lak a hagan which means Lake of Forks. David Thompson traversed the lake in 1837 and a map of the lake drawn by him refers to it as Forked Lake. On September 5, 1837 he mentions catching lake trout in the lake. In 1853 a report of a geological survey refers to the lake as Lake of Bays. Thomas Moffatt, agent for the Hudsons Bay Company (Moffatt reports an outpost on Bigwin Island) refers to it as Trading Lake.

LAKE CHARACTERISTICS

Lake of Bays is a deep, cold, infertile lake (total dissolved solids value of 20.8 parts per million) which forms an important part of the Muskoka watershed. Despite its size, the basin shapes, low fertility and almost continual flushing combine to make it only moderately productive. At the time of the survey the lake was well stratified. The surface layer, thirty feet in depth, had a temperature of 66° F. Below this layer the temperature dropped rapidly to 45° F. Lake of Bays water is clear. The maximum secchi disc reading obtained was 26 feet.

FISH SPECIES PRESENT

Lake trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, whitefish, lake herring, white sucker, longnose sucker, burbot, yellow perch, trout perch, rainbow smelt, brown bullhead, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, common shiner, blacknose shiner, northern redbelly dace, brook stickleback, pearl dace, creek chub.

FISHING

The lake is fished by cottagers, local residents and many visitors to the area. Lake trout and smallmouth bass are the main sports species and the lake has produced a number of trophy lake trout in excess of twenty pounds. These trout are difficult to catch, and require heavy trolling equipment once the lake warms up. The summer lake trout fisherman also needs a great deal of patience. Smallmouth bass are taken in summertime in the shallower water around the shores and on shoals. During the winter the lake provides winter fishing for lake trout and whitefish. The whitefish are slow growing. Smelts are frequently taken in the winter as are burbot. Winter fishermen are required to register their fish huts.

ACCESS AND FACILITIES

Lake of Bays is readily accessible 13 miles from Huntsville via Highways 60 and 35 to Dwight, Baysville, 14 miles east of Highway 11 on Highway 118 and Dorsat, 25 miles from Huntsville on Highway 35 and 35 miles north of Minden on Highway 35. Boat launching facilities are available at Dorset and Dwight. Docking facilities are available at Dorset, Rabbit Bay (near Dorset), Glenmount, (south shore) Dwight, South Portage and Baysville. The Lake of Bays area is well endowed with resorts, motels and hotels. Details of these accommodations may be obtained through the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce.

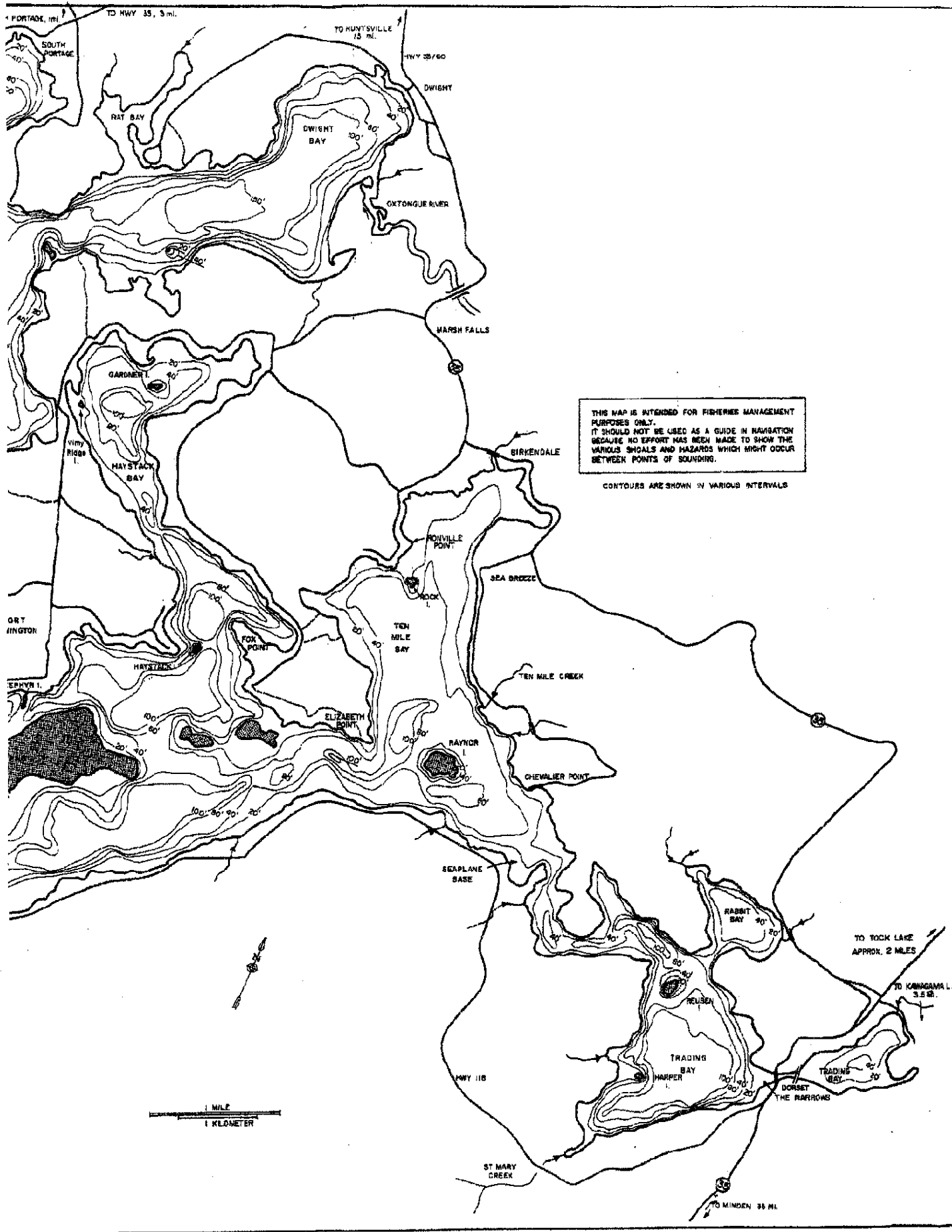
SURVEY DATE

MAY 6 - AUGUST 20, 1969.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS VALID AS OF AUGUST, 1969.
CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

COPIES OF THIS MAP ARE AVAILABLE AT
LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS OFFICES.

Ken
Dorset, Bracebridge
MNR
DATE: Apr. 1969
FAX
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THIS MAP IS INTENDED FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PURPOSES ONLY. IT SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A GUIDE IN NAVIGATION BECAUSE NO EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO SHOW THE VARIOUS SHOALS AND HAZARDS WHICH MIGHT OCCUR BETWEEN POINTS OF SOUNDING.

CONTOURS ARE SHOWN IN VARIOUS INTERVALS

1 MILE
1 KILOMETER