

Fishing in Harcourt Park

All lakes in Harcourt Park are open to members and their guests for fishing subject to the Ontario Rules and Regulation regarding sport fishing and special regulations in the Harcourt Park By Law.. Please find below some information about fishing in Harcourt Park. If you have any further questions please refer to your By-Law Booklet or contact the Director, Fish Management, at fish@harcourtpark.ca .

1. The use of inboard or outboard internal combustion or electric motors is restricted to the following lakes: Allen, Big and Little Straggle and Kennaway. The use of such motors in any other lake within the confines of Harcourt Park is prohibited. (See By Law #33)
2. Fish and Game regulations in the Park (including the requirements of fishing and hunting licenses where applicable) are as specified by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Province of Ontario. (See By-Law # 42 for additional requirements of Harcourt Park)
3. The use of live or dead minnows or any fish species at all, as bait for fishing, regardless of their source, is strictly prohibited in any body of water in Harcourt Park. In addition, the transportation of live or dead minnows or any live or dead species (except as part of your grocery shopping for eating in the home) in Harcourt Park for any purpose is strictly prohibited. (See By-Law #41).

The reason for this by-law is to prevent unacceptable predator fish such as rock bass and disease from getting into our lakes and damaging or destroying the sport fish population. Worms are allowed as bait in all lakes except East Lake. (See point #4 for more information on East Lake)

4. East Lake is one of the very few lakes south of Algonquin Park with a naturally reproducing population of brook trout, or to be more scientific, brook char. The brook trout is a member of the char family, as is the lake trout. The fish spawn in late October/November under specialized conditions. With the increased fishing pressure on all lakes including East, this natural heritage was endangered. Working with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Harcourt Part has established East Lake as a sanctuary.. The special rules are:

- o No live bait (not even worms); only lures, spinner, flies etc.
- o Only one brook trout per day
- o The trout taken must be at least 14 inches [35 cm] in length
- o o The season begins on the same date as the brook trout season opens in Algonquin Park, normally the 4th Saturday in April and ends September 30th.

For more information about the special status of East Lake or to arrange to watch the brook trout spawn in the fall, contact the Director, Fish Management at fish@harcourtpark.ca .

5. Big Fish Contest – Each year Harcourt Park gives one trophy for the biggest fish caught in our Lakes in each of the following categories: Lake Trout, Splake, Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout, Small Mouth Bass and Large Mouth Bass. Please take your catches to the Harcourt Park Marina for weigh in and recording.

6. There are brook trout in lakes other than East and regardless of other species in any lake, any lake with brook trout closes for fishing September 30. This is also true for Allen Lake where there is a naturally reproducing lake trout population.

Protecting our waters will also help preserve and sustain our fish populations for years to come.