Durham Region offers fishermen a world-class sport fishing experience that is second to none. With its major rivers flowing from the Oak Ridges Moraine, the waters are cold and pure enough to support resident brook, brown and rainbow trout year-round. During spring and fall, rainbow and brown trout, chub and chum salmon ascend the rivers on their spawning runs provide excellent sport. As well, like Lake Scugog, is shallow and weedy, perfect for walleye, perch, smallmouth and largemouth bass and the mighty muskie, and all of a short drive from Toronto. Further north, Lake Simcoe’s southeastern section in Durham Region can provide year-round fishing for lake trout, whitefish, perch, walleye, pike and burbot. So take your choice and enjoy the wonderful amenities of Durham Region.

This map has been designed to assist both the welcome visitors and residents of the urban-rural area, which holds such promise for both successful fishing trips and challenging visits for world-class anglers. Many references will be made to an essential free reference book available at many fishing tackle outlets – Fish Ontario 2008-2009 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary. For boat owners, a number of major boat launching ramps have been marked. Boat owners can launch and berth their craft on Lake Ontario at Port Wiabi.

Full Fishing
Come September, the flies have disappeared and most fish go on a feeding spree to get ready for winter. The several bass beds are now available and if you can fish to a plentiful and the fishing can be the best of the year. A cool or warm September will see rainbow and brown trout returning to the rivers flowing into Lake Ontario, heading upstream to spawn. They’re hungry and males will smash lures to protect their territory.

A number of streams named in the conservation area section of the maps can be productive, some with many having urban services that may be required. Since much of this information is subject to change, we assume no responsibility for any inaccuracies given in any of the listings included in this publication.

For more information contact, contact Fish Ontario at 1-800-363-4704.

FISHING THE LOCAL CONSERVATION AREAS

Wilmot Creek

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA)

A. Mill Street south of Hwy. 401, turn west onto Toronto Street. Park at the end of the street, in parking lot.

B. Mill Street north of Hwy. 401, turn west onto Hwy. 2. Parking is at Wilmot Creek.

C. Mill Street north of Hwy. 401, turn west onto Toronto Street. Park at the end of the street.

An excellent fishing spot. There are various areas for free fishing.

Devil’s Den Nature Trail.

Frenchman’s Bay and some parts of Lake Simcoe have deeper water reefs and humps.

Another advantage for most visitors is the short time it takes to drive home.

For many, summer fishing starts with the opening of the bass season, on the fourth Saturday in June. For many, summer fishing starts with the opening of the bass season, on the fourth Saturday in June.

Bass season, on the fourth Saturday in June.

Spring starts when the ice disappears and the open seasons are not the same for all three zones within the listed areas. Walleye seasons vary in the three fishing zones and slot limits in Lake Scugog must be checked. Pike fishing in Franceburn’s Bay and some parts of Lake Simcoe have different open seasons. Check for yearround open seasons for a number of fish species in Fish Ontario 2008-2009 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary.

Winter Fishing

Ice fishing from Jan. 1 to Feb. 28 is available on Lake Scugog, just a short drive east of Toronto. Walleye and perch are the major fish caught through the ice. There are rental ice fishing huts, but many anglers fish just offshores from Port Perry in the open. McKee’s reservations are recommended. Live minnows are best, but live cores and a tree of jiggng with small spinners are allowed (gloow beers are best for the dawn and dusk periods). Some huts are rigged for overnight fishing.

Check out limits for walleye in Fish Ontario 2008-2009 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary. Which are available in fishing tackle shops.

Lake Ontario Shoreline

All open waters at the mouth of streams flowing into Lake Ontario can be productive for rainbow trout. When Frenchman’s Bay freezes over, lake trout and pike can be caught. The mouth of Oshawa Creek can be productive and at Port Durham, rainbow and brown trout can be caught.

Prime Fishing Time

Prime fishing time on Durham Region is any time. There is always a “little” going on in summer and winter. Licences for non-residents can be obtained at most tackle shops during fishing season. Full information on pages seven and eight of the Fish Ontario 2008-2009 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary must be read before a fishing trip. Keeping it available for reference is a good idea.

There are three Fishing Zones in Durham Region: zone 20 that covers Lake Ontario, zone 17, the area around Lake Scugog; and zone 16, the area around Lake Simcoe. In an attempt to provide the best fishing for everyone, the open seasons are not the same for all three zones within Durham Region. Some species of fish have all-year open seasons in some zones, but not all.

For shore fishing, slip floats can be used to great advantage. Slip floats allow you to cast with a short length of line at the end of the rod, but when the cast lands, the line slips through the float to a pre-set depth, putting your bait in the action zone but not at the bottom.

The diversity of fishing within each a small geographic area is so close to Ontario’s major metropolitan area, Toronto, the world’s best fishing memorable. You can successfully undertake a day’s fishing covering species and still be home for dinner.

Durham Region has also made family fishing a priority by protecting and developing a number of conservation areas with picnic facilities, washrooms, paralel waters; and river fishing for trout in the headwaters of many streams.

Durham Region’s fishing locations are in rural areas with many having urban services that may be required. Durham Region’s Economic Development and Tourism Department has many supporting materials of things to see and do. For further information, contact the department at 1-866-413-0377.

With these lakes and numerous streams to fish, why not try them all.

For more information contact Fish Ontario at 1-800-363-4704.