

FISHING HOLE

BURCHELL LAKE

THE SKINNY: Located about an hour west of Thunder Bay, southwest of the community Kashabowic, Burchell Lake receives attention from walleye and lake trout anglers. Take Highway 802 southwest from Highway 11. There is a launch ramp on the northeast end of the lake.

WHAT SWIMS THERE: Lake trout, walleye, northern pike, rock bass, yellow perch and burbot comprise the catchable species.

DETAILS: Burchell covers 2,536 acres and has 17.5 miles of shoreline. The maximum depth is 245 feet, with a mean depth of 80 feet.

CRYSTAL CLEAR: With a Secchi disk reading to 17 feet, don't expect walleye fishing to be easy. The best action for walleyes will be in low light periods and after dark. Lake trout fishing is reportedly good, but trophies are few. Expect eaters, not lunkers.

MINES AND GHOSTS: Burchell Lake was once best known for a copper mine dating to the early 20th century. During the 1950s, improving technology made it possible to re-open the mine to take advantage of large copper and gold deposits. During the first full year of operation, about 1960, the mining company removed 11,500,000 pounds of copper. By the time the mine

closed in 1967, almost 102,000,000 pounds of minerals were removed. The Burchell Lake townsite grew to almost 400 residents during the 1960s. It was abandoned after the mine closed and became known as one of Ontario's best-preserved ghost towns. In 2012 the buildings were razed as part of a remediation project that sealed the mine openings and covered the mine waste with biosolids to encourage the growth of vegetation.



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