

# FISHING HOLE

BY JOE SHEAD

**WHY GO:** Two Island Lake is only about a half-hour drive from Thunder Bay. It's a good action lake for smallmouth bass and northern pike and you'll be on paved roads for all but the last mile.

**ACCESS:** To get there from Thunder Bay, travel west on Dawson Road (Highway 102) and turn north onto Dog Lake Road (Highway 589). Continue north on Dog Lake Road for roughly 25 km/15.5 miles, then turn left onto Two Island Lake Road. Dog Lake Road is paved, but you'll have to travel about a mile on gravel as you turn onto Two Island Lake Road. The boat launch is on the southwest side of the lake, just to the west of the long peninsula that extends north from the south shore. The parking lot has space for about four rigs. The launch is fairly shallow, but most average-sized fishing boats should be able to launch here.

**GAME SPECIES PRESENT:** Smallmouth bass and northern pike.

**VITALS:** "The appeal to Two Island Lake is that you can be to the lake within about a 30-minute ride from Thunder Bay and be catching fish within eyeshot of the public access point," said Davis Viehbeck, conservation officer for the

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. "The lake has lots of rocky structure, making it a great smallmouth fishery. Anglers should use caution when navigating the lake for submerged hazards, especially in the north arm." Viehbeck added that anglers catch good numbers of smallmouth bass, averaging 1.5 to 2 pounds and pike averaging 3 to 5 pounds. "Suspending jerkbaits like #8 and #10 X-Raps, tube jigs in brownish tones, crayfish imitation baits, Senko-style stickbaits and topwaters are all you need to catch both the plentiful bass and pike in the lake," he said. Viehbeck added that the lake is fairly developed, as local lakes go. Smelt are present, but despite a failed stocking attempt decades ago, there are no wall-eyes in Two Island.

**BONUS BROOKIES:** On occasion, anglers catch brook trout in Two Island. "The brookies are kind of like unicorns, but when you get them, they're big," Viehbeck said. He suspects these fish enter the lake from a creek at the north end of the lake.

## TWO ISLAND LAKE, ONTARIO



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