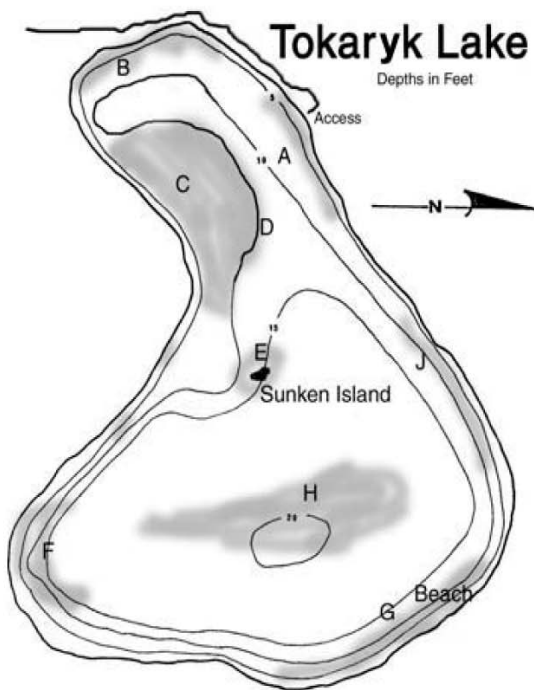


Tokaryk Lake



LOCATION:

Turn off Highway 45, North onto Highway 577 at the Village of Oakburn until the pavement ends. One mile on gravel will bring you to the Mass Grave sign. Turn east and go until you come to the white church. Turn to your left and you will see the lake. Follow along it to the sole, legal landing. Do not use any other access for you will cross private land and be liable to prosecution for trespassing.

Snacks are located at Olha Store, at the base of the tower you can see to the north.

MORPHOLOGY:

Max. Depth: 7 metres – 23 feet. **Surface Area:** 200 Acres – 90 Hectares

Sechi: 3 metres – 10 feet (Spring 2000)

Thermocline: Nil. Entire lake turns over on very windy days. In calm conditions stratification occurs at 5 metres

In times past Tokaryk Lake has suffered intermittent partial winterkills. Installation of an aerator in 2009 will alleviate the problem and again produce the hawks that made the lake's fame in international circles. Rainbows are feisty and numerous and can give you a five-hundred foot thrill if you happen to hook a big one along shoreline of area "C" and he decides to go to deeper water. This is the home of the "Tokaryk Take", a brief love affair that begins and ends with one massive jerk on the end of the line and another at the other end, wondering, "What the ___ was that!"

Pack some extra tippet material and lots of flies.

This is a trolling lake that should be avoided on weekends but becomes a fisher's paradise on weekdays.

STARTING AREAS:

A – The flat immediately out from the launch. Many large fish are taken on it in a regular basis. We usually try a few casts from the dock when we arrive on a quiet morning, and often find our launch in the float tubes and kick boats is interrupted for a half-hour until we've depleted the zone sufficiently to warrant launching.

B – The Beach Cupule. Some large fish pin forage fish on the beach and hunt them among the rocks. "Chopper", a 30-inch brown lived here until 2000, when a bait-fisherman knocked him on the head and took him home to the freezer. He's been replaced by several slightly lesser competitors who feel safe to set up feeding patrols through the zone. One or more of these will keep C&R fly fishers entertained until 2008.

C – The chara flats. Home of scuds, minnows, dragon nymphs and crawling with bloodworms - nature's cleaning crew. Fish in the hollows and over the springs visible in the weeds

D – Weed edges along the chara flat. Fish longitudinally down the drop-off. Keep track of the twists and turns with sonar. Expect a Tokaryk Take and hold onto your rod. Try leech and minnow patterns.

E – The sunken Island. During some years the minnows stack in the sanctity of the bulrushes and last years stubs. Then a brown or rainbow gets adventurous and invades, making a roar as the minnows jump. Where will he exit? That's half the fun. This is a haunt for browns

F – Fish the zone from stony beach to outer weed edge. In low light the browns move in to seek cray fish and shore minnows. Work outside the weed edges in the daytime.

G – The Beach. Sandy shores. Hosts minnow that seek safety in shallow water and offer targets for sporadically invading browns. Wade and cast or work it from a float tube. They do not appear to like boats that move in and flush them out.

H – The trench. Mud bottoms. Chironomid city. Fish deep. This is the summer home for trout. Do they seem suspended? That's because oxygen depletes radically after 4 metres. Adjust your presentation accordingly.

STARTING PATTERNS:

Start with a Tokaryk Special. Beadhead Beaver and Tans, Standard and Crystal P-Quads, Prince of Darkness, Woolly Buggers (olive and black), Bunny Leeches, Copper Coachmen, chironomids in all sizes and colours. About any fly that was ever tied has been fished in Tokaryk Lake, everyone has a sworn favourite and keeps it a major secret. Bring yours and add to the lore and enjoyment.