New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources
Lake Map Series

Region 6

Lake of the Woods

Not For Use in Navigation

Lake of the Woods

| County: Jefferson | Town: Theresa |
| Surface Area: 172 Acres | Mean Depth: 43ft |

Fish Species Present: Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Atlantic Salmon, Whitefish, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch

Scale:

Lake of the Woods

General Lake Information

Lake of the Woods Association

Location: Town of Alexandria

County: Jefferson

Basin: St. Lawrence River

Size: 166 acres

Lake Origins: Natural

Watershed Area: 670 acres

Retention Time: 7.1 years

Mean Depth: 13 meters

Sounding Depth: 26 meters

Public Access: DEC cartop launch

Fish Species Present: Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Atlantic Salmon, Whitefish, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch

Major Tributaries: Outlet from Boyd Pond

Lake Tributary To… unnamed outlet to Indian River to Black Lake to Oswegatchie River to St. Lawrence River

WQ Classification: C – non-contact recreation

Lake Outlet: Latitude: 44.316   **Longitude:** -75.727

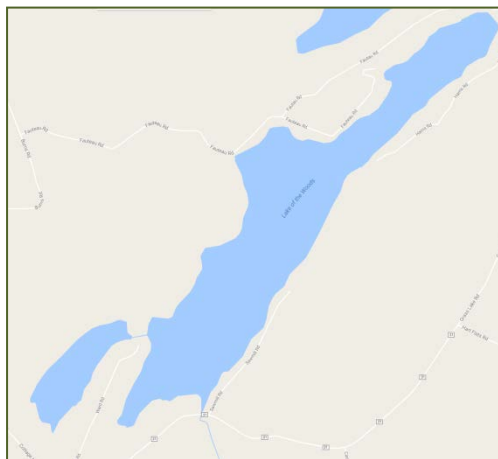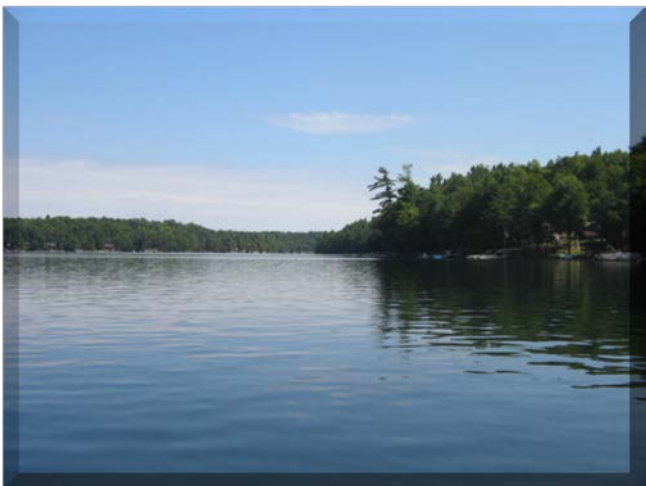**CSLAP Participant:** 1994-1995, 1999-2005, 2008, 2015

Produced by:

Indian River Lakes CONSERVANCY

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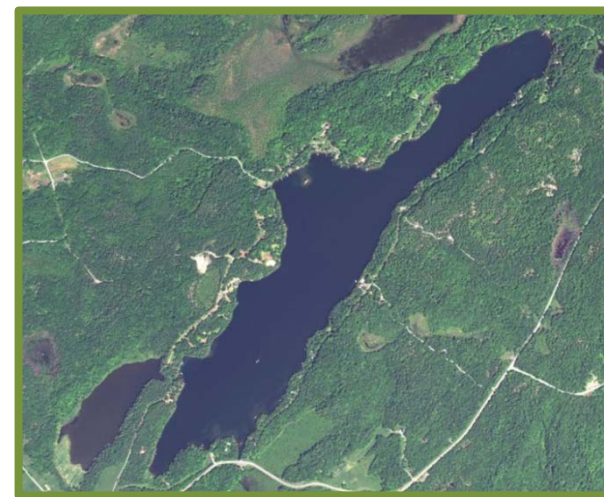# Brief History of Lake of the Woods/Thompson Lake

When Jonathan Thompson, a pioneer who built the area's first tannery Barnes Creek in 1822, first arrived in Theresa he lost no time exploring the lake region. He felt that none were as attractive as the smaller lake just south of Grass Lake. This lake, set like a gem among timbered hills on each side, was nature at its best. The lake was a mile and a half long, but not much more than a quarter of a mile in width.

Right away Mr. Thompson envisioned the ideal place to make a summer resort on this very lake, which he called Lake of the Woods. The name fit the place perfectly. The outlet of the lake flowed down a rocky spillway to reach the Indian River a mile and a half away. Mr. Thompson proposed that a sort of boarding house be erected at the lake where people could come just to enjoy the spot and fish if they desired. Unfortunately, the idea never took hold and Jonathan Thompson's resort was never built.

Some maps prior to 1850 show Lake of the Woods as Thompson's Lake, probably because the Thomson family took up all the land at the south end of the lake. But today Jonathan Thompson's original name, Lake of the Woods, remains.

Schuyler Soper erected sawmill where the Lake of the Woods outfall meets the Indian River. He, and then later his son Orange Soper, operated the mill which also provided power to the northern part of Theresa. Today the mill is gone, torn down in the early 1990s, yet the dam remains in the original location. Mr. Soper also operated cottages on the lakes that were patronized by city people. He was proud of the joy it gave families.

Lake of the Woods is one of three deep, cold water lakes in the Indian River Lakes region. Lake of the Woods is considered an oligotrophic lake, one that has low nutrient content. Oligotrophic lakes typically have low algae production, thus very clear waters. Bottom waters in such lakes have high oxygen concentration which can support fish species that require cold, well oxygenated waters, as does Lake of the Woods.

Historical information gathered from: The History of Theresa, by: Ronald Sinclair