

There's Gold in the Lakes of Haliburton...

*... but this gold doesn't go on your finger or around your neck, it swims in our waters!
Haliburton's Gold is a unique lake trout, which only inhabits lakes of this area.*

The "Haliburton Gold" Lake Trout is a glacial relict that geologists tell us is over 10,000 years old. Canada was covered by a vast sheet of ice some 2 – 4 km thick. Pre-glacial fish populations were either destroyed or pushed into ice-free areas called refuges located at the southern edges of the ice sheet. As the earth warmed and the glaciers retreated, fresh water fish re-invaded the large, newly formed glacial lakes.

A unique strain of lake trout distinct from other lake trout in Ontario and thought to be a glacial relict has been found in some lakes located in the heart of the Haliburton Highlands. This lake trout has been dubbed the "Haliburton Gold Lake Trout" HGLT. John Casselman, a senior scientist with the MNR, has been studying the HGLT for many years and his findings have discovered that it appears to be one of the oldest and purest strains of lake trout in the world. Therefore, it is extremely important to protect its genetic integrity. The HGLT is well known for its torpedo shape, compact size, strong fighting ability, salmon coloured flesh and excellent taste. It reaches maturity in 5 - 7 years (several years earlier than most strains of trout). They have been designated as a heritage species.

The Haliburton Lake Trout Project: "Building a Better Fishery Together" - is an exciting, community-based effort designed to enhance our lake trout fisheries. Volunteers and experts from the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) joined forces to improve angling opportunities and learn more about this precious resource.

A major component of this project is devoted to protecting the Haliburton Gold lake trout strain and reintroducing them into selected lakes within the County. Volunteers at the HHOA hatchery, stock lakes, restore habitat, assist in gathering research data, raise funds and communicate the goals of the project to the community. OMNR and OFAH fisheries specialists provide scientific and technical expertise to ensure that the project is grounded in good science.

The HLTP has become the model partnership development in the delivery of fish and wildlife programs for the Province. This project promotes public awareness and stewardship in the management of our lake trout fisheries in Haliburton County. Community support and involvement continue to be vital to the project's success.

The HHOA is a non-profit organization including a non-commercial fish hatchery. HHOA sponsors many programs including: Lake Access Clean-Up Programs; in partnership with the MNR and with affiliated cottagers / property owners associations,

complete assessment and lake trout spawning shoal rehabilitation projects. For more information, to donate, become a member or a volunteer see the HHOA website at [www.hhoa@on.ca](http://www.hhoa.on.ca)



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