

# Summers at Sauble should be all about enjoying the sun and the sand

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by Dick Waugh

There were many people from the metropolitan areas of Southern Ontario came to Sauble Beach in the summer of 2010 to holiday. That's what the Toronto Star advised and many did just that.

There were many more came to Sauble Beach because the Readers Digest, Canadian edition, said this beach was the place to spend ones vacation.

Then there were the 24 weeks of summer, planned by Shane Sargent, program director for the Chamber of Commerce, who with the help of major grants presented these events. There were beer tents on the beach, (some with obvious disapprovals from businesses) car shows, rock bands galore which echoed over the entire beach.

Even The Sun Times back in the summer said that Sauble does things right.

So, apparently it was a success for all.

If that is what the population of Sauble Beach wants.

There were throngs on the waterfront, with hardly room for one more family.

They came in busloads from the Greater Toronto Area and roped off a section of the beach for their group of people. They had barbecues on the sand, (permissible as long as they didn't use coals) played games, set up long tables for their lunch and so it went.

They rarely buy from the food merchants, bringing their own and leaving their garbage. Various businesses did not realize a big summer as visitors stayed beachside.

At times there wasn't a spot on the beach for those who live at Sauble.

On the Sauble Beach SandFest Weekend the beach was visited by 48,000 bodies, according to an economic impact study done by the Festivals and Events of Ontario and the Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model. This is used to compute the amount of impact a festival has on a community.

This study also determined that the SandFest generated some \$4,416,200 for the region during its three days.

It further claimed that 71% of those that came were from greater than 40 kilometres (about 25 miles) to be at the beach and the average stay was for three nights.

I have friends that refer to this as progress and that things will constantly change as southern Ontario uses the Bruce Peninsula as its vacation land.

This was prior to the municipal election, which was fought on the basis of whether the town of Sauble needed a community wide sewage system.

I am aware that the town maintains four washroom facilities along the beach and supplements that with portable ones. I am further aware that these washrooms are pumped out and taken to

fields for disposal. Great!

But do 48,000 people use these facilities? Come on . . . many use the sparkling waters of Lake Huron rather than stand in line for facility to become vacant.

We have said before in Waugh's World that there is a time when the beach can tolerate no more.

Traffic was tied up from Sauble Beach leading back as far as Shallow Lake. Is this encouraging to visitors as it was in past summers?

The municipality needs to have a system that limits the number of visitors and indications on Highway 21 that only a set number of automobiles will be permitted.

But that is only realism.

For the people of Sauble do they want the 24 weeks of summer, accompanied by rock bands and with their giant amplifiers echoing across the resort? On some instances the person on the mike used vocabulary that would only be permissible in the men's beverage room ... if that.

And yes beer tents. Dr. Hazel Lynn, the medical officer of health, condemned Grey and Bruce alcohol habits, when she said that it "doesn't matter up here if it's a family event, there's got to be a beer tent".

Or would they prefer the notion that the beach is for families where tots can play and persons can enjoy the sun and the sand.

It is not for persons from Southern Ontario to use, as some do, when they are away from home. We have laws the same as you do.

We don't appreciate dogs on the beach ... although the bylaw people rarely issue tickets to persons that do just that.

We like the tranquility that the beach can give, morning, noon and night.

We like to share our good fortune with others, but in numbers that the beach can reasonably cope with.

The beach is why they come here. Do we have to entertain them with loud music, beer tents and 24 weeks of summer?

I say "No" Just keep summers at Sauble Beach for those that enjoy the beach.

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