

# What's Good for Business at Sauble isn't Necessarily Good for the Ratepayers

## Owen Sound Sun Times

August 18, 2011

by Philip Broadbent

Editor:

Last year it was reported that the three-day Sandfest event at Sauble Beach in 2010 was attended by 48,000 people and generated \$4,416,200 in revenue.

According to a recent report by Bruce Parsons of the Sauble Beach Chamber of Commerce it would seem that this year's event easily equalled those figures and member business owners were overwhelmed with the success, describing their business gains as phenomenal.

Are we the taxpaying house and cottage owners in Sauble also ecstatic at this news?

I think not! After these daily events the beach area used is a shambles of garbage, unsanitary litter, etc., etc.

Portable toilets are unable to cope with the needs of such enormous crowds and, as a consequence, it is not uncommon that the lake is used as a supplementary toilet facility.

Who pays for the cleanup, garbage disposal and extra policing? Well, the money comes from our residential taxes.

Mr. Parsons claims to have no knowledge of any bylaw infractions and yet later says that the chamber will fight tickets written against the event manager, Shane Sargant, and others.

He is also surprised that in spite of the success of this and similar events, there is a small group of people who are looking for every excuse to prevent such events from continuing.

Rather it is a small group of chamber of commerce members who will use any means to make enormous profits even if it is to the detriment and pollution of the beach.

Last year these members were the main proponents of the sewer project for Sauble, claiming that pollution in the lake and at the beach was due to leaky sewage from cottage septic systems. This project would come at an estimated cost of \$25,000 for each cottage owner.

No doubt we can expect the blame for the same issue to be levelled again at property owners.

According to Mr. Parsons, the feedback he received about Sandfest from the majority of people in Sauble was a positive one. Possibly his survey was conducted amongst visiting patrons in the beer tents on the beach and not full-time residents.

It was also interesting to read the letter published in The Sun Times on Aug. 14 from the group who described themselves as the president and vice-presidents of "Save Sauble Beach" which extolled the benefits of having thousands of visitors invading Sauble Beach for these events. They were also lavish in their praise of the promoters.

They criticize the two members of council we elected to protect the interests of Sauble residents and to preserve the tranquility of our beach for family visitors -- not to promote excessive profits for the business community.

From their comments it would seem that "Save Sauble Beach" is a misnomer for this group, who appear to be more of an offshoot of the chamber of commerce.

Philip Broadbent Sauble Beach

*Article ID# 3262964*