

Save the Sand at 'Our' Beach

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By John Strachan

Editor:

I find it rather selfish that a number of "North Enders" consider a stretch of beach as their own private beach. I have been at Sauble for 65 years, some as a resident and many as a cottager like my father and grandfather before me. Beach raking is relatively new, a trick used to lure people to Dick Thomas's store in the north.

Sauble was a wilderness beach long before the town decided to bury thousands of cigarette butts, bottle caps and condoms under the fluffy surfaces they created with their raking.

I was around before the fencing, when our neighbours on First Avenue spent hundreds of hours and dollars removing from their cottages sand that had blown up from the beach.

I was also at the council meeting where Janice Jackson tried to dissuade the MNR about the plovers. I saw MNR stick to their policies, not a scripted monologue. All one has to do is read the laws! Like it or not, nature wins! I am not a plover lover but I am a law-abiding citizen. Federal laws protect these little critters, often more than they protect us. Neither Ms. Jackson, council, the mayor nor the CAO can change these laws. I suggest writing our MPs and MPPs to vent our displeasure, if any, about "their" laws and regulations.

As for Mr. Gammie; you seem to paint him as a sour grapes loser. I see it a little differently. I look at the vote count and see him as a winner that came just a few votes shy of becoming a councillor and a candidate who would have beaten many other so-called winners had the vote been done at large, rather than by ward. He is a valuable resource who takes time to research his publishings, deeply caring about the beach and all of our societal care-taking duties to heart. I do not always agree with him, but find his information accurate, honest, and useful.

To sum it up, I consider myself a North Ender and Janice has fairly represented me on most matters. I do not believe we are losing "our" beach. The biggest differences between "our" beach and downtown are that we have tons of soft white sand and they have small stones and stinking black ooze where clean white sand used to be.

I have always loved the beach and I am in favour of fencing and the many ways being used to save our sand and dunes. Just go downtown and watch what little sand is left, snaking its way up the road and the stores and into oblivion. I am not ready to say goodbye to the sand.

John Strachan
Sauble Beach