

Save Sauble's Sand

Owen Sound Sun Times

October 7, 2011

by John Strachan

Editor:

I find it rather selfish that a number of people consider a stretch of the 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 by Dick Thomas to lure people to his store in the north.

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

I was around before the fencing, when our friends and neighbours on First Ave. spent hundreds of hours and dollars removing sand from their cottages that had blown up from the beach. We had never heard of plovers and played with the friendly sandpipers when we were kids.

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 Coun. 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 Craig Gammie, he is painted with sour grapes as a loser. 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 openly 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 Coun. Jackson has fairly represented me on most matters. I do not believe that we are losing "our" beach, as you say. 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 magnetite oozing onto the surface where clean white sand used to be. I have always loved the beach and 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