

Parking Lot on Sauble Beach?

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By Ashton Patis

Tempers are flaring at Sauble Beach over a land use dispute.

The beach area between 5th and 6th Street is owned Sauble Beach Development Corporation, and there are rumours the company wants to turn the area into a large private parking lot.

This would see public access to the area beach closed off and a privately owned business take its place.

Residents, land owners and sun seekers are upset -- especially since last week a gate was put up blocking a public access route near Peel Lane.

Councillor Janice Jackson says while the Sauble Beach Development Corporation owns a certain part of the beach, how it is used is not up to any individual.

Jackson says there is a long standing agreement in place that allows a committee of land owners between 5th and 6th Street to decide how the beach is used.

But she says the company needs to abide by the beach bylaws, many of which she feels are being broken with the gate.

So far council and police have taken no action.

But, Jackson says if the Corporation moves to set up a parking lot along the beachfront between 5th and 6th Streets, some legal action could result.

She adds they would have to go through several steps to legally set up a parking lot on that land.

Councillor Jackson claims no one can kick the public off the beach this long weekend.

The issue of the gate and the land use will be brought before council next Tuesday.

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