

## **Sauble Beach**

May 5, 2023: Wiarton, ON. On April 8, 2023, the Ontario Superior Court ruled in favour of Saugeen First Nation's claim to a portion of land on Sauble Beach, north of Main Street.

Although the Town has appealed the Court's decision, the ruling stands unless the Ontario Court of Appeal sets aside the judgement. This means that the Beach from Main Street to a point in the vicinity of 7th Street North is currently owned, operated, and regulated by Saugeen First Nation.

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula continues to own, operate, and regulate the portion of the beach north of 7th Street North.

The Province of Ontario has also filed an appeal to the Sauble Beach Land Claim ruling, a copy of their appeal as well as other land claim related documents is available at <u>Sauble Beach Land Claim -</u> <u>South Bruce Peninsula</u>

In the spirit of cooperation, the Town and Saugeen First Nation have established productive and routine dialogue regarding beach related maintenance items. The Town has offered to assist Saugeen First Nation if/when requested to make sure that the 2023 summer season is a success for visitors, businesses, and residents of both communities. Saugeen First Nation has agreed to allow all Memorial Benches to be installed on the beach in the same locations as in previous years. Collaboration has also resulted in assurances that the storm drains that outlet on the beach, will be maintained by Saugeen First Nation.

One of the major issues/concerns with the Judge's ruling, is that actual location of Reserve No. 29's east boundary, is not clearly defined. As such, Lakeshore Blvd. North road related maintenance items and the Paid Parking program are in flux. The Town continues to maintain Lakeshore Blvd. North and the shoulder/parking areas in the interim (until boundaries are clarified), while keeping Saugeen First Nation apprised of road related maintenance activities. Details about the 2023 Paid Parking program are still unclear, information will be forthcoming.

The Town will continue to share information regarding the Sauble Beach Land Claim and 2023 operational related items and issues in a timely manner. The Town asks for your continued patience as both South Bruce Peninsula and Saugeen First Nation prepare for a busy and successful summer season.

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