



BILL WALKER

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Hon Nathalie Des Rosiers
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Suite 6630, 6th Floor, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

March 6, 2018

Dear Minister Des Rosiers:

I am writing you with regard to the issue of clean-up efforts at Sauble Beach. As one of the longest freshwater beaches in Ontario, Sauble Beach is considered the most popular beach destination in Ontario, visited by thousands of people year-round who come here to boat, swim, sunbathe or relax. I am always proud to showcase the beach as a natural wonder of my riding.

Recently your office received hundreds of emails from constituents who voiced concerns about the state of our beach, specifically about access to the beach and the increasing build-up of weeds. They believe a continued rehabilitation of the beach is necessary to ensure Sauble Beach continues to be the top destination for travellers and Ontario's Number One beach.

As you may be aware, beach tourism in Southwestern Ontario translated into a million dollars in economic activity (including direct, indirect, and induced tourism expenditures) in recent years, making Sauble Beach a force for positive growth and economic success for our region. In fact, recreation and tourism are becoming an increasingly important part of our economy, creating employment, attracting visitors from outside the area and keeping local people spending money inside the area. It is also important to note that Sauble Beach is home to 3,000 cottage owners from the Greater Toronto Area who spend the season here. As such, it is important all of us continue to support the tourism industry in South Bruce Peninsula and the complementary activities within this sector.

South Bruce Peninsula Mayor Janice Jackson has written me to ask that I convey this message to you in light of her community's efforts to clean up the beach this year and ensure it is ready to welcome back all those visitors and support local businesses and families. Their plan is to rake the weeds outside the piping plover habitat before the piping plovers return and establish nests for the season, as this would ensure the Town stays in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

I understand that the Ministry has been monitoring this situation, but there is no dialogue about plans the 2018 season. Due to the time-sensitive nature of their request and the potential economic impact on the region, I respectfully ask you to review and respond to their concerns at your earliest opportunity, with a copy to my office.

Thank you for your time, attention and efforts with this important request.

Sincerely,



Bill Walker, MPP
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

CC: South Bruce Peninsula Mayor and Council
Bruce County Warden and Council
Sauble Beach Chamber of Commerce
Ken Lacroix, Manager, Upper Great Lakes Management Unit, MNRF
Tracy Allison, Resources Management Supervisor, Owen Sound Office - MNRF

¹ Ted Rogers School of Hospitality and Tourism Management : *Determining the Economic Impact of Beaches: Lake Huron Shoreline from Sarnia to Tobermory*