



Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

MEDIA RELEASE

BEACH CARNIVALS CANCELLED FOR 2011

Beach Carnivals have been operating on the Port Elgin main beach for many years. Although the location of the carnivals has changed over the years, there remained a strong community connection to the vibrancy of the carnivals. Not for profit groups have raised thousands of dollars to assist with their own fundraising campaigns, and summer visitors and residents have flocked to the area to try their chance at winning a cake or a bingo game. In 2006 a total of 52 carnivals were offered during the summer months.

Acting Director of Community Services expressed disappointment with the decision of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission that lead to the ultimate demise of the Beach Carnivals. Jayne Jagelewski stated that the Gaming Commission received a complaint from a Town of Saugeen Shores resident about the format of the Carnivals which lead to new operational guidelines for the volunteer groups to follow. Jagelewski stated: "We abided by the Gaming Commissions request and added 'games of skill' for our younger patrons to participate in and removed them from the bingo games and other games of chance. "These changes basically killed the interest in Beach Carnivals".

Staff has continued to offer an affordable fundraising opportunity for our community groups, and since the change in format we have struggled to draw the same numbers of groups. We have reduced the fee to attract groups to return with no avail; and now for 2011 we only have 2 groups that have expressed an interest in returning.

Knowing this, staff has decided not to operate the carnivals for 2011 with a re-evaluation for 2012. It is anticipated that the Waterfront Master Plan will identify programming options that will meet the needs of our patrons at the beach.

Jayne Jagelewski
Acting Director of Community Services
Town of Saugeen Shores
519-832-2008 (126)
jagelewskij@saugeenshores.ca