

LETTER: Shoemaker urges residents to utilize new beach bus

about an hour ago By: SooToday Staff



Matthew Shoemaker file photo. Donna Hopper/SooToday

SooToday received the following letter to the editor for Sault Ste. Marie City Councillor Matthew Shoemaker regarding the upcoming launch of [transit service to Pointe Des Chenes](#) day park:

Sault Ste. Marie has about 80 municipally operated parks. However, only one park in all of Sault Ste. Marie has a public beach, and that's Pointe Des Chenes Park.

Geographically, it is also one of the most isolated parks from Sault Ste. Marie's population centre, presenting a challenge for many residents to be able to access it.

With this in mind, I put forward a [proposal](#) on Feb. 22, 2021 to run a Sault Transit bus to Pointe Des Chenes beach on summer weekends. Happily, Council [voted in favour of the proposal](#) and the bus service is set to start running this Saturday, June 26.

This service provides cheap and convenient access for anyone in Sault Ste. Marie to the city's only public beach.

By running a city transit bus to an under-used city park, we can better utilize Pointe Des Chenes beach, provide better access to existing city services to everyone in Sault Ste. Marie, and ensure that both these things are done at a low cost to the taxpayer.

This can be a model for future programs, including a proposal now before council to have a similar transit service extended to Hiawatha Highlands.

As the beach bus is a pilot program for the 2021 summer, I encourage all Sault Ste. Marie residents to make good use of this service so that it is available for youth and families for years to come.

As we begin to slowly emerge from a difficult 16-17 months of on-and-off lockdowns, a weekend at the beach is a safe way to relax and unwind with your family.

I wish all Sault Ste. Marie residents a safe, enjoyable and healthy summer.

Matthew Shoemaker
City Councillor

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