Sawdust City Brewing Co. to merge with Lake of Bays Brewing Company creating a larger, more dynamic player in the Ontario Craft Brewing landscape.

For Immediate Release

Gravenhurst & Bracebridge ON - June 18th 2025 - Two of Ontario's most respected and award-winning breweries, **Sawdust City Brewing Co.** and **Lake of Bays Brewing Company**, are joining forces to create a stronger, more dynamic craft beer organization. This new entity brings together decades of brewing experience and a shared commitment to quality, community, and innovation to seize the growing opportunities in Canada's thriving craft beer industry.

The merger unites two independently operated breweries with strong regional roots and shared values. The new organization will rank among Ontario's top 10 breweries, with combined production exceeding 20,000 hectolitres annually, over 200 employees, and nearly 30 years of collective brewing experience. It also solidifies retail distribution and brand presence throughout the Muskoka region, with a total of six restaurants, taprooms, and event locations.

Long-time Sawdust City leaders Natalie Archer and Sam Corbeil will take on senior leadership roles within the new organization, bringing their deep operational expertise and proven leadership to the forefront—key to driving the long-term success of this venture.

As part of the transition, Sawdust City Founder Rob Engman will be stepping away from the daily operations and stepping into a new role of Consultant with an emphasis on the real estate component of the business.

“I am incredibly proud of all that we’ve accomplished at Sawdust City Brewing over the years,” said Rob Engman, Founder and Brewery Owner. “From our first brew at Niagara College in 2011 to building a world class facility, beloved brand, a loyal team, and a vibrant taproom and event venue in Gravenhurst, it’s been an amazing journey building a business from scratch and being an active part of this great community. I’ve long admired Darren Smith and the Lake of Bays team for their integrity and commitment to craft beer, and I am confident they are the right cultural fit to carry the Sawdust City legacy forward.”

Darren Smith, President and CEO of Lake of Bays Brewing, echoed the excitement:

“We’re thrilled to welcome the Sawdust City team, its outstanding beer, and the Gravenhurst location into the Lake of Bays family. Rob has built a strong, respected, and award-winning brand, and the taproom and production facility are truly exceptional. Gravenhurst is a strategic addition to our footprint in Muskoka, and alongside our Merit and Lake of Bays brands, we’re excited about the diverse, high-quality portfolio and guest experiences that we are building.”

Cheers to the future of Ontario craft beer - and to Sawdust City, Merit & Lake of Bays Brewing!

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Photo Reference: Senior Leaders at Sawdust City and Lake of Bays raise a glass in celebration. Gravenhurst ON, June 18, 2025

L-R: Andrew Walsh, Head Brewer Lake of Bays Brewing; Sam Corbiel, Head Brewer Sawdust City Brewing; Rob Engman, Founder & President Sawdust City; Darren Smith, President & C.E.O Lake of Bays; Natalie Archer, C.O.O Sawdust City

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About Lake of Bays Brewing Company

At Lake of Bays Brewing Company our philosophy is simple – make great beer, run a down-to-earth business, and have some fun while we're at it! We welcome all communities and invite them to join us for a pint paired with good food, whether at our brewery and brewpubs or at home. Our goal is to bring our community together through beer, great food and a love of the outdoors!

About Sawdust City Brewing Co.

Sawdust City Brewing Co. captures the adventurous spirit of Muskoka in every pint: quality-focused yet playful, rooted in heritage but fearless in experimentation, and firmly woven into the fabric of its community.