



Township officials meet with Minister Cansfield

Members of Council continue to represent the interests of ferry users with Provincial officials. On July 26, 2007, representatives from Loyalist Township, including Reeve McEwen and Councillor Ashley, met with Minister Cansfield to review the operation of the Amherst Island Ferry service.

Issues discussed included the following:

- 100% funding of ferry operations;
- Recent Provincial audit;
- Minister's review of all Provincial MTO supported ferry operations;
- Requested MTO involvement with capital improvements to the ferry docks;
- What consideration is being given to up-loading of ferry operations?

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AUG 10 2007

Mr. Clayton McEwen
Reeve
The Corporation of Loyalist Township
PO Box 70
263 Main Street
Odessa, Ontario
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Dear Reeve McEwen:

I am writing to follow up on our meeting of July 26, 2007 regarding the Amherst Island Ferry and the audit and review being undertaken by the province.

As we discussed, the ministry has undertaken an audit of the Amherst Island Ferry operations. As soon as the audit is completed we will share the report with Loyalist Township.

The ministry is completing audits for all municipally operated ferries receiving provincial funding in Eastern Ontario as part of a larger review of ferry services in the region. This review is being undertaken to ensure an equitable system of ferry services and their delivery in Eastern Ontario. In order to complete the review, thorough analysis of the operational information obtained through the audits, as well as existing policy, practices, and legislation, must be completed.

Until all the analysis is done and the review completed, no decisions have, or will, be made regarding changes to existing operating agreements, uploading of services or funding for capital improvements. I think it would be premature to initiate these discussions for the Amherst Island ferry, or any other ferry, ahead of the review.

Thank you again for meeting me. I know that by working together, we can find a solution. Please feel free to call me at any time if you have any questions or concerns with the process of the review.

Sincerely,



Donna Cansfield
Minister

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Fuel Consumption & Costing Trends

Ferry staff continue to monitor operations to reduce fuel consumption and their efforts are reaping rewards.

There has been a 14 % and a further 3.9 % reduction in fuel consumption from the 2005 and 2006 levels. Although the cost of fuel per litre has increased by 20% the actual total fuel costs have decreased.

Good work, Ferry staff!

Fuel Consumption / Costs (January to June)			
	2005	2006	2007
Litres	386,506	332,674	319,618
Dollars	\$221,916	\$230,214	\$219,978
Average Cost/litre	\$0.5742	\$0.6920	\$0.6883

Forecast of Ferry Revenue / Expenses

As of July 31, 2007, the Ferry service expenses were \$1,144,530 of a total budget of \$2,194,800. If the current trend continues, expenses for 2007 will be below budget.

On the other hand, fares collected as of July 31, 2007, amount to \$134,984 of a forecasted year end estimate of \$275,000. If this trend continues, there is a projected revenue shortfall of \$22,000. A review of the ridership stats indicates a reduction in car and truck traffic of 4,844 vehicles between the months of January to July, compared to 2006. The projected revenue shortfall can be attributed partially to the delay in implementing the fare increase and to the decrease in ridership. The Township is able to cover this year's anticipated deficit from the Ferry Reserve account.

Ministry of Transportation Announcements

- Ministry of Transportation informed Township staff on August 20, 2007 that, until the review of ferry operations in Eastern Ontario is completed, MTO will not proceed with any Ministry funded capital projects.
- The Frontenac II was to go into dry dock this fall. Due to the dry-dock schedule for the Quinte-Loyalist this fall also, MTO is considering deferring the Frontenac II dry docking to the spring of 2008. Refer to the Township web site for updates.

MTO completes Ferry Compliance Audit

The MTO auditors have completed their audit of the Township's operations with respect to the agreement between the Township and the Ministry. The results of the audit are expected shortly.

Senior Captain retires after 42 years of dedicated service

Loyalist Township extends sincere congratulations to Senior Captain Earle Willard upon his recent retirement from the Ferry Service.

Amherst Island residents have depended on his faithful services for all those years and we wish him and Donna all the best in his retirement years.

Thanks, Senior Captain Earle!

For up to date ferry information, refer to the Township's web site.