



Information update

Council continues efforts to improve funding arrangements for the Ferry Operation

In a letter to the newly appointed Minister of Transportation, Reeve McEwen asked Minister Bradley to continue previous Minister Cansfield's ferry review initiative with the intent "to ensure an equitable system of ferry services and their delivery in Eastern Ontario".

Ferry Audit — MTO has advised that the audit of provincially supported ferry services is near completion. We look forward to receiving the auditor's report, as the first step in the overall review of ferry operations in the Province. The Ministry of Transportation Regional Director, Eastern Region, Kathy Moore, confirmed that the report would be presented to the Township before it would be released to the public. She offered to provide a brief summary of the process and the results of the audit to Council.

In a resolution dated November 12th, 2007, Council expressed their wish to MTO that any meeting regarding the audit report, beyond that of Township staff and Ministry representatives, be open to the public and take place in the Council Chambers in Odessa.

Dry-docking the Frontenac II

Finally, Transport Canada has extended the Inspection Certificate for the Frontenac II beyond November 11th, with the expectation that the ferry will go to dry-dock in the spring of 2008. Council had asked that a spring schedule be established for dry-docking the Frontenac II on an on-going basis. Transport Canada has not agreed to changing the schedule permanently but a postponement of this year's maintenance was needed because of the extended time the replacement ferry, the Quinte Loyalist, has been in dry-dock this fall.

Another resignation

We regret to advise that Raymond Wemp has submitted his resignation, effective December 31, 2007. Although we will miss Raymond, especially on those frosty, windy mornings, we are happy that he will now have more time to do the things he wants to do. After nearly 40 years on the ferry, he deserves a change of pace. Congratulations and best wishes, Raymond.

Ridership & Fuel Consumption Trends

(January 1 st to October 31 st)			
	2005	2006	2007
Ridership (Cars & Trucks)	126,252	122,124	118,144
Litres Consumed	600,303	526,788	503,105
Fuel Costs	\$368,401	\$381,891	\$351,281
Average Cost/litre (Purchased)	\$0.62	\$0.73	\$0.70

Ferry Ridership?

Ridership on the Frontenac II so far this year is down compared to last year, including a 7% decrease in the January to April period, which was prior to the rate increase. While we recognize that ferry ticket prices will affect ferry traffic, the decrease in ridership prior to the rate increase suggests that it is not the only factor that affects traffic volumes. The September and October traffic volumes were higher than the same period in 2006 but the overall ridership to date in 2007 has decreased, presumably for a number of reasons that could include ferry rates and the price of gas.

Although ridership at this time is less than last year, it might be difficult to convince those commuters who have been left on the dock for several 5:30 p.m. crossings this fall that there's less traffic. It's another reminder that traffic patterns also vary from time to time.

Public input on Ferry issues

In a letter to the AIFC in September, Reeve McEwen acknowledges that input from the "committee and other non-aligned ferry users could be beneficial" and goes on to say that "constructive and cooperative input from your committee and all other interested parties will be welcomed and given full consideration". Council wants to hear from all sectors of the Amherst Island community, which may or may not be represented by the AIFC.

*Improved Web site
www.loyalist.ca*

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