

**HOWE ISLAND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
Howe Island, Ontario
K7G 2V6**

**December 4, 2014
Mayor Denis Doyle
Township of Frontenac Islands
50 Baseline Rd.
RR#4 Gananoque, On
K7G 2V6**

Re: Howe Island – Ferry Service / HIRA Ferry Survey

Dear Mayor Denis Doyle

Following our letter to Council dated July 16, 2014 and our meeting with Councillor Nossal and D/Mayor Jones, HIRA determined it prudent to undertake a survey of the residents of Howe Island respecting the ferries and potential improvements in efficiencies and infrastructure.

We received over 50 surveys; while the comments were quite varied the general consensus was that improvements to the capacity and initiatives to improve the efficiencies were seen as priorities. However they did not want any of these improvements to result in raised taxes. A detailed analysis is attached.

HIRA believes that the results of this survey support a number of initiatives that were suggested in our previous correspondence and would now urge Council to move forward with determining how to improve the efficiencies with the existing infrastructure, and, as well, builds the reserve funds for future infrastructure improvements.

HIRA notes the recent proposal by staff to increase the existing fares does nothing to improve the efficiencies nor will it build the reserves. HIRA would therefore encourage Council to consider some new options that will ensure the longevity of the existing ferry and more importantly look to other revenue sources to build the reserve funds..

We would be pleased to meet with members of Council and/or staff to further explore these options.

Yours truly

**Brian Humphrys
Chair HIRA**

**Jim Mills
Transportation Chair HIRA**

Cc - CAO Darlene Plumley - Deputy Clerk Carol Dwyre

Howe Island Ratepayers Association Ferry Survey November . 2014

	53 113									
	Excellent 1	Good 2	Satisfied 3	Fair 4	Dissatisfied 5	Nov 2014	Prev Surve Dec-13	Prev Survey Jan-07		
Number of Surveys										
Number of Residents										
How would you rate the overall ferry service that you are currently receiving?	7	29	14	4	0	2.3	2.1	3.5		
Ferry turnaround time	8	21	18	7	0	2.4	2.3	4.1		
Courteous helpful staff	22	17	14	1	0	1.9	1.5	1.6		
Ferry loading	13	26	7	3	5	2.3	2	2.3		
Safety	16	26	6	4	0	2.0	1.9	2.7		
	Number									
Should commercial vehicles be restricted on foot ferry										
During Rush Hour										
Yes						39	83%			
No						8				
During Non Rush Hour										
Yes						8				
No						37	82%			
Should Trailers and recreational vehicles be restricted on foot ferry										
During Rush Hour										
Yes						31	74%			
No						11				
During Non Rush Hour										
Yes						7				
No						34	83%			
Do you use the Foot Ferry						22				
Do you use the 15 Car Ferry						31	58%			
Shoud additional staff be added at the foot ferry to eliminate wait time at the breaks										
						20				
						30	60%			
Are you willing to pay more in taxes to make this happen?										
						14				
						34	71%			
Do you agree that we need to increase the size of the ferry at the foot to enable it to carry at least 2 more cars ?										

	Yes	33	70%
	No	14	
Are you willing to pay more in taxes to make this happen ?			
	Yes	23	
	No	24	51%
Do You areee that you should pay for the amount of space you use on the ferry ie if you take up more than one space you should pay more?			
	Yes	39	75%
	No	13	
Do You areee that all property owners should pay a yearly fee to help pay for the ferries? Not all property owners currently buy a pass?			
	Yes	36	69%
	No	16	
Do you agree that the wait time on the 15 car ferry needs to be under 30 cars (2 ferries)?			
	Yes	41	85%
	No	7	
Do you agree that the wait time on the foot ferry needs to be under 9 cars (3 ferries)?			
	Yes	40	80%
	No	10	
Do you think that we should have a special levy on all new development to help for additional ferry capacity ?			
	Yes	36	71%
	No	15	
Would you be willing to get involved with fundraising for a new ferry and dock and bubble system at the foot?			
	Yes	12	
	No	34	74%
Would you be willing to have a temporary tax levy to help pay for a new ferry at the foot?			
	Yes	22	
	No	24	52%
Do you think that council should borrow for a new ferry?			
	Yes	23	55%
	No	19	

HOWE ISLAND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
Howe Island, Ontario
K7G 2V6

June 16, 2014
Mayor Denis Doyle
Township of Frontenac Islands
50 Baseline Rd.
RR#4 Gananoque, On
K7G 2V6

Re: Howe Island – Ferry Service

Dear Mayor Denis Doyle

HIRA is encouraged to see Council moving forward with respect to the Growth Management Study that Council undertook last year. Given that the study defines the projected future demands on the ferry system and the resultant need to increase ferry capacity. This will likely involve many improvements to the existing infrastructure that will no doubt take significant time to effect. HIRA believes there are a number of initiatives that can be taken in the short or medium term that can have the effect of both improving the existing service and buy the necessary time to implement the ultimate solutions.

As you are aware HIRA conducted a ferry survey last year and based on the comments received from the community have developed a list of potential initiatives that could be adopted to lessen the wait times. While we recognize that there is cost to these initiatives we believe these costs are not unreasonable given the increased growth on the island. We have also included a few options to increase revenues.

INCREASE REVENUES

- All property owners purchase a pass or pay a yearly ferry fee**
- Ferry operators be more diligent in the collection of fees particularly trailers**
- Charge increased fee for commercial and off island vehicles these could be at a higher rate as they don't pay taxes and tend to use more space**
- Property owner passes sold to individual not the car**
- Only emergency vehicles should ride ferry free**
- Review Development Charges to determine if they are appropriate given the improvements needed by our ferries**

EFFICIENCY OPERATION INITIATIVES - Some of these could be relaxed during off peak time i.e. time of day or time of year

- Trailers and large vehicles be restricted to County ferry
- Coverage for breaks on both ferries
- Web cams so people can decide which ferry is best to go to or delay trip etc.
- Fuel trucks be restricted to specific times
- Regular maintenance at night on both ferries
- Automatic gates at County ferry
- Educational initiatives to encourage residents to plan trip, car pool etc.

FARM VEHICLES

- As Howe Island still has a significant agricultural component and HIRA believes it is beneficial to maintain and support the agricultural component as much as possible no initiatives should unduly hamper the agriculture operations.

Representatives of HIRA would be pleased to meet with Council or staff to further explore and discuss these or any other options that may be developed.

Yours Very Truly

**Howe Island Ratepayers Association
Jim Mills - Transportation Chair
Brian Humphrys - Planning**

cc

**Natalie Nossal - Councilor
Barbara Springgay - Councilor
Wayne Grant - Councilor
David Jones - Deputy Mayor
Carol Dwyre - Deputy Clerk
Ed Beseau - Chair HIRA
Paul Charbonneau - Director of Emergency and Transportation Services**