

Council Members
Township of Frontenac Islands
90 Baseline Road
RR#4 Gananoque Ontario
K7G 2V6

September 8, 2017

Re: Howe Island Ferries

Dear Sirs/Mesdames

We wish to thank Council for convening a meeting on ferry fees on August 29th. It is very apparent from the large turnout at the meeting that ferry fees and transportation are very important subjects for all Howe Island residents and other users of the ferry service.

We refer to HIRA's letter to the Council dated August 8, 2017 which outlined our suggestions for your consideration in your deliberations in determining the best method of moving forward on this subject.

We noted during the discussion at the meeting that there is a diversity of views on fares, how they should be collected and whether vacant land owners should be charged through collection by Council of a special tax.

As Council proceeds through its deliberations and also proceeds through the current budget process, we would urge Council to proceed on an urgent basis with one of our suggestions as outlined briefly in our August letter.

Our suggestion at paragraph numbered 3) of our letter was for Council to take steps to install internet connected cameras at each ferry terminal to give ferry users a real time view of the ferry's position and line-ups thus allowing users to decide which ferry to use and whether to delay or postpone ferry trips.

We have noted that at each of the Wolfe Island ferry terminals there are 'real time' cameras in use now providing users of the Wolfe Island ferry with internet connected 'real time' views and information at each terminal including views of vehicle line-ups.

Budgeting now for cameras, followed by approval and installation within a few months would undoubtedly lead to improvements in service and provide to Howe Islanders the same advantages Wolfe Islanders now enjoy by reason of 'real time' cameras at each of their terminals. Installation before the winter season sets in would be, and would be seen to be, a step forward to improving ferry service.

The large turnout at your meeting clearly demonstrated the importance of the transportation issues on Howe Island and that transportation must be and remain the number one priority issue for Islanders and other users.

We are prepared to assist you in any way we can in your continuing deliberations.

We applaud Council in indicating at the conclusion of the meeting last week that Council would, before implementing changes to ferry fare structure, hold another public meeting for further discussions on any proposals Council wishes in implement to give Howe Islanders an opportunity to support any such proposals or provide further input.

We look forward to assisting Council in its important work in continuing to make Howe Island a truly enjoyable community.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Robertson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Robertson, Chair

Howe Island Ratepayers Association