

ISLAND ACCESS NEWSLETTER

August 1997

IBI Group and Baxter and Associates have been working with the Townships of Amherst Island, Howe Island and Wolfe Island and the Ministry of Transportation (known as the Client Group) to determine a long term business plan addressing access to the islands. This newsletter summarizes some of the activities undertaken since the study began in early July.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The public consultation process has thus far been comprised of: *open houses* on Amherst, Howe and Wolfe Islands, a *mailout survey* on each island and *intercept surveys of ferry users* on the Wolfe Islander III and the Glenora ferries. Some preliminary results from the public consultation process are documented below. Additional details regarding the public consultation process will be provided to the public and the final bidders in the second phase of the proposal call process (see page 7) and will be documented in our final report to the Client Group.

OPEN HOUSES

Open houses were held on the three islands and in Picton to meet with area residents/property owners to provide information regarding the *Island Access Study* and to also provide an opportunity for residents/property owners to express their views; these open houses were held during the last week of July. The following provides a brief summary of the views/preferences expressed at the open houses through the placement of stickers on various presentation boards.

Amherst Island

Some 122 people attended the open house on Amherst Island on Thursday July 31, 1997. Open house participants strongly support fare increases as a means of revenue generation; as well, there is support for reducing the hours of operation of the ferry servicing Amherst Island as a means of achieving operating cost savings. Participants also indicated strong support for the construction of a fixed link with a toll charge. In terms of economic development, open house participants support: education/training centre, research facility, agricultural products, experimental farms, increased permanent residential development, retirement/lifestyle (50+) community, golf course/resort and a marina. Open house participants indicated opposition to: a prison, boot camp, waste disposal site and a casino.

Howe Island

About 120 persons attended the open house held on Howe Island on Tuesday July 29, 1997. The introduction of fares and increased ridership through economic development were supported as methods of revenue generation by the open house participants. Reducing the hours of operation of the ferries serving Howe Island is strongly supported as a means of operating cost savings. Participants indicated strong support for the construction of a fixed link with a toll charge. Supportable economic development options include: education/training centre, research facility, experimental farms, increased permanent residential development, retirement/lifestyle (50+) community, golf course/resort, marina and nature reserve. Open house participants indicated opposition to: a prison, boot camp, waste disposal site, manufacturing and a casino.

Wolfe Island

Approximately 168 persons attended the open house held on Wolfe Island on Wednesday July 30, 1997. The introduction of fares and increased ridership through economic development were supported as methods of revenue generation by open house participants. Reduction in the hours of operation and the number of crossings are supported as means of achieving cost savings. About 33% of participants support changing the Wolfe Islander III route. Wolfe Islanders expressed strong support for the construction of a fixed link with a toll charge. Supportable economic development options include: education/training centre, research facility, manufacturing, increased permanent residential development, retirement/lifestyle