

(50+) community, golf course/resort, beach resort development and a nature reserve. Open house participants indicated opposition to: a prison, boot camp, waste disposal site, casino and a theme park.

Picton

Some 12 persons attended the open house held at the Crystal Palace in Picton on Monday July 28, 1997 to find out further information or express their views related to the future operations of the Glenora ferries. Participants generally expressed opposition to the introduction of fares or the elimination of the ferries in favour of a fixed link. Concern was also expressed over the short timeframe allowed for the consultation process. Unlike the open houses held on the islands, the open house at Picton did not contemplate the examination of economic development opportunities due to the fact that the Province of Ontario will continue to subsidize the ferry operations in this location.

MAILOUT SURVEYS

Also during the latter part of July we sent *mailout surveys* to island residents and property owners to solicit their views and opinions on fares, ways of reducing ferry operating costs, fixed links/bridges and other related issues. The following summarizes the results of the survey received up to August 15, 1997. It should be noted surveys are still being received as of August 27, 1997; these surveys will be included in the final survey analysis.

Amherst Island

Survey Status

- Survey was sent/delivered to 415 addresses; each address received 2 surveys with additional copies being available at the Township office. Total completed surveys received: 179.

Respondents

- Some 53% of survey respondents are permanent residents of Amherst Island and the remaining 47% are seasonal residents.

Usage

- On average, Amherst Island survey respondents take 5.5 one-way trips per week on the ferry.

Ferry Fares

- Some 83% of survey respondents are willing to pay a higher fare.
- About 71% of survey respondents support separate fares for passengers and vehicles; some 59% support differentiated passenger fares.
- With respect to a reasonable one-way adult fare, the survey results were analyzed to exclude the lower and upper quartile responses and focused on the responses within the upper and lower limits of the two middle quartiles (i.e., between 25% and 75% of the cumulative response). This middle quartile range identified a toll of between \$0.50 to \$1.75 per adult. The average one-way adult fare from all Amherst Island survey respondents is \$1.28. For a car, the suggested one-way fare fell in the middle quartile range of \$2.00 to \$4.60, averaging \$3.57.
- The Amherst islanders are split (51% for and 49% against) on the issue of implementing higher fares for non-residents.
- There is strong support (91%) for a bulk pass/ticket which incorporates a discount.
- Fares should not vary by time of day (84%) nor by season (88%).
- Reducing the number of ferry crossings over the course of a day (67%) and reducing the times during which the ferry operates (58%) are identified as being the acceptable methods of reducing ferry operating costs. Survey respondents also suggested that a reduction in crew size (40%) was appropriate.

Property Tax/Household Levy

- There is not strong support for an increase in property taxes or the implementation of a household levy. However, where respondents noted that an increase or levy is appropriate, the average increase is on the order of \$139.