



Volume 2, Issue 2

Amherst Island Ferry Service

September 2007

Township officials meet with Minister Cansfield

Members of Council continue to represent the interests of ferry users with Provincial officials. On July 26, 2007, representatives from Loyalist Township, including Reeve McEwen and Councillor Ashley, met with Minister Cansfield to review the operation of the Amherst Island Ferry service.

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Issues discussed included the following:

- 100% funding of ferry operations;
- Recent Provincial audit;
- Minister's review of all Provincial MTO supported ferry operations;
- Requested MTO involvement with capital improvements to the ferry docks;
- What consideration is being given to up-loading of ferry operations?

Mr. Clayton McEwen
Reeve
The Corporation of Loyalist Township
PO Box 70
263 Main Street
Odessa, Ontario
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Dear Reeve McEwen:

I am writing to follow up on our meeting of July 26, 2007 regarding the Amherst Island Ferry and the audit and review being undertaken by the province.

As we discussed, the ministry has undertaken an audit of the Amherst Island Ferry operations. As soon as the audit is completed we will share the report with Loyalist Township.

The ministry is completing audits for all municipally operated ferries receiving provincial funding in Eastern Ontario as part of a larger review of ferry services in the region. This review is being undertaken to ensure an equitable system of ferry services and their delivery in Eastern Ontario. In order to complete the review, thorough analysis of the operational information obtained through the audits, as well as existing policy, practices, and legislation, must be completed.

Until all the analysis is done and the review completed, no decisions have, or will, be made regarding changes to existing operating agreements, up-loading of services or funding for capital improvements. I think it would be premature to initiate these discussions for the Amherst Island ferry, or any other ferry, ahead of the review.

Thank you again for meeting me. I know that by working together, we can find a solution. Please feel free to call me at any time if you have any questions or concerns with the process of the review.

Sincerely,

Donna Cansfield
Minister

Inside this issue:	
Meeting with Minister	1
Minister Responds	1
Fuel Expenditures	2
Fuel consumption	2
Ferry Revenue / Expenses	2
Capital Spending	2
MTO audit	2
Senior Captain Retires	2