

Ministry of Transportation**Ministère des Transports**

Regional Director's Office
East Region
1355 John Counter
Boulevard
Kingston, Ontario K7L 5A3
Tel.: 647-638-5359
Fax: 613-547-1777

Bureau du directeur régional
Opérations de l'est
1355 Boulevard John
Counter
Kingston, Ontario K7L 5A3
Tél.: 647-638-5359
Télééc.: 613-547-1777



December 12, 2024

Mayor Judy Greenwood-Speers
Township of Frontenac Islands
JGreenwoodSpeers@frontenacislands.ca

Dear Mayor Greenwood-Speers:

As a follow-up to our meeting on November 5 regarding the Wolfe Island ferry service, I wanted to provide you information and updates on some of the items we discussed.

Thank you for sharing your concern about mooring the Wolfe Islander III at Stella. To determine the best location, the ministry conducted a thorough review that explored all available options, including Dawson Point. Due to the exposed conditions at Dawson Point, leaving the vessel moored there would be unsafe, especially during high winds or rough weather. The increased exposure may cause the vessel to heave at the dock, potentially damaging both the ferry and the dock infrastructure.

With respect to your feedback on accessible parking and washroom availability at the Marysville terminal, ministry staff discussed these matters with township staff at their monthly meeting on November 5. As an update, I can confirm that ferry staff are now unlocking the terminal building at 5:00 am so the washrooms are available as early as possible. In terms of accessible parking, please note that due to the limited space at the dock there is no public parking, and the terminal configuration is compliant with accessibility requirements. Parking at the dock was reviewed with the township during the design process, and the current layout with no public parking was identified as the preferred option. However, MTO will work collaboratively with the township staff to explore accessible parking options during the staff-level meetings. We are committed to supporting accessible public transit and will ensure that our ferry services continue to meet accessibility requirements and standards.

At the same staff-level meeting on November 5, the township also raised concern about pedestrian safety along the main roads leading to the ferry dock. The option of sidewalk curb cuts was reviewed during the design process for the terminal's reconstruction, and the current configuration reflects the option supported by the township. Ministry staff will work with township staff to assess the issue and discuss possible ways to resolve it.

The ministry also met with the township on November 13 to continue our discussions on the evening layover period. As mentioned, we are open to adjusting the time if there is one that works better for ferry users while also meeting operational needs. We will also continue our conversations with the township to collaboratively explore options for emergency calls.

Regarding your inquiry about bike racks, the ministry continues to review demand and options for whether they can be safely located on the ferry car deck. Additionally, for fire safety, I can confirm that the passenger lounge on the car deck does have a combined smoke, heat and gas (CO) detector, in accordance with the fire plan. The safety of passengers and everyone on board the ship remains a top priority for us.

In our experience, discussion of such issues at staff-level meetings provide the optimal opportunity for the ministry and township to collaborate on operational items related to the Wolfe Island ferry service. Should you have other concerns, we welcome the township raising them at these regular touchpoints for further discussion. Meeting agendas are developed collaboratively. As requested for your reference, the following representatives from the township are invited to each monthly meeting: Vanessa Latimer, Tim Hawkins, Mike Quinn and Jesse Collins.

As you know, the ministry is working with its partners to investigate the December 4 incident that resulted in damage to the Wolfe Islander IV. We will share more information once that work is complete. In the meantime, the Wolfe Islander III will provide service on a 60-minute round-trip schedule, with departures on the hour from Kingston and on the half-hour from Dawson Point.

We thank everyone for their patience and understanding, and thank you again for taking the time to meet with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Franca Sacchetti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'F'.

Franca Sacchetti

Regional Director, East Region

- c. Vanessa Latimer, Chief Administrative Officer, Township of Frontenac Islands
Colin Simons, Director, Transportation User Services