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Mayor John Tory  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall, 2nd Floor  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N2  
(By email to: [mayor\\_tory@toronto.ca](mailto:mayor_tory@toronto.ca))

Dear Mr Tory:

### **Toronto Needs a Second Ferry Terminal**

In summer, the Jack Layton Toronto Island Ferry Terminal at the foot of Bay Street is overwhelmed with congestion and parking problems. This is disruptive for local residents, unfair for thousands of Island visitors, and incompatible with the recent improvements to Queens Quay.

The pending redevelopment of the ferry terminal, although a beautiful addition to the City and Waterfront, will not fix these problems, even if combined with the planned purchase of new ferries. The site is too small to accommodate the huge number of Toronto Island visitors at peak times, and lacks adequate parking and road access. These problems will get worse as the City grows.

York Quay Neighbourhood Association (YQNA) proposes that the City and Waterfront Toronto open a second (and possibly a third) ferry terminal to supplement the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal. We suggest two possible sites: (a) the existing, unused Rochester ferry terminal on Cherry Street, in the Eastern Gap, or (b) Ontario Place.

At present, people can wait two hours on busy summer days for a ferry to the Toronto Islands. Line-ups spill out onto Queens Quay causing chaos for the surrounding neighbourhood. Summer visitors to the Islands often have kids, strollers, plus barbecue or beach supplies. Groups in buses are common. But there is nowhere for cars or buses to unload, let alone park. Trucks serving Toronto Islands can wait four or five hours for a ferry. For music or sports events, massive trucks carrying speakers and staging park illegally on the north side of Queen's Quay due to lack of space at the terminal, blocking traffic and annoying local residents.

Relocating trucks, buses and cars to a secondary terminal would better allow the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal to be re-developed as an architectural showpiece, improve access to the Islands for all, and

lessen the stress on the Waterfront neighbourhood. Island residents might benefit from the availability of an alternative access point to the City.

The already-existing, unused ferry terminal site on Cherry Street on the Eastern Gap, built for the short-lived Lake Ontario ferry to Rochester, would be ideal. A ferry terminal building is already there (see photograph below), surrounded by parking, and accessible along Cherry Street from the DVP and Gardiner. It is in a light industrial area compatible with trucks and bus traffic. The dock wall is already configured to accommodate a ferry. At least at peak times, ferries could go from there to Centre Island, the most popular Island destination. The fact that the Cherry Street ferry terminal is already built should make this option attractive from a fiscal point of view.

Ontario Place should also be considered as a possible ferry terminal site. It has vehicle access at the east end, accessible from Lakeshore Boulevard and the Gardiner. A ferry terminal could be incorporated into whatever recreational redevelopment is planned and budgeted for the site. Ferries could travel to Centre Island and Hanlan's point.

Both locations should have docking space for water-taxis (as should other parts of the Harbour) so people can take a water-taxi to and from where they park. Pedestrians, cyclists and transit-riders would likely still use the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal. But trucks, as well as island visitors arriving in cars or buses, would be better served by another terminal elsewhere.

Both the east and west parts of the Waterfront will be extensively developed in years to come. The increase in population and density along the Waterfront and in the City as a whole may justify two new ferry terminals.

Both sites are available now, so far as we know, but may be dedicated to other uses before long unless steps are taken soon to reserve them as ferry terminal sites. A window of opportunity is open now which may close.

Yours truly,



Ed Hore  
Co-chair, YQNA

cc. by email to:

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