

Ministry of Transportation

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January 27, 2023

Dear Wolfe Island Ferry Passengers,

The Ministry of Transportation is pleased to be able to provide you with updates on the Wolfe Island ferry service. We recognize that this is a critical mode of transportation for residents and that ferry users are eager to come aboard our newest vessel, the Wolfe Islander IV. The ministry is currently targeting having the ferry in service in spring 2023.

We are working diligently to ensure the safe operation of the Wolfe Islander IV starts as soon as possible to meet the needs of the community. Before the vessel can be put in service, marine staff must complete necessary training in accordance with Transport Canada regulations. Training and testing have started, so you may notice the Wolfe Islander IV in the water around Kingston or at the docks. The existing Wolfe Islander III will continue providing regular service to ferry users while this work is underway on the Wolfe Islander IV.

Work is also underway to upgrade both docks in Kingston and Marysville. Due to design changes, including those to support the new electric ferries, along with various other construction challenges, the completion dates for both docks have been delayed.

Construction on the Marysville dock is tracking towards completion in late 2023. Until then, the new ferry will operate out of Dawson Point. Construction on the new Kingston ferry dock is tracking towards completion in 2025.

Temporary modifications are being made to the existing Kingston dock as an interim solution to be able to accept the new ferry while construction on the other dock continues.

To see the latest updates on construction, please visit wolfeislanddocks.ca.

If you have not already done so, you can email mtoferryinfo@ontario.ca, and request to be added to the Wolfe Island distribution list.

You can also visit Ontario.ca/ferries and follow [Wolfe Islander III](https://twitter.com/WolfeIslanderIII) on Twitter for the latest ferry service updates.

Sincerely,

Herb Villneff
Director, East Operations

WOLFE ISLAND FERRY DOCKS PROJECT

McINTOSH PERRY

Newsletter

VOL.2 JANUARY 2023



Winter has arrived!

BY JESSICA CARROLL

With the frost of winter on our doorstep comes a new update about the Wolfe Island Ferry Docks Project. Plenty of work has been done over the last several months, and many islanders have been itching for an update on construction being done in Marysville and Kingston, and we are here to deliver! As always, we would like to extend a huge thank you for your patience and understand during this busy time.

Check out the latest news below!

[Read More](#)

www.wolfeislanddocks.ca



KINGSTON DOCK

Over the last 6 months Green Infrastructure Partners Inc. (formerly Coco Paving) has mainly been focused on constructing foundation components for the new north finger pier and vehicle ramp as well as for a new mooring dolphin to accommodate the longer Wolfe Islander IV. This is complex and time-consuming work that is not very visible but is critical to the project's success. Adjustments are also underway to allow the new Wolfe Islander IV to operate out of the existing dock.

Work on the new terminal building is expected to begin later this spring 2023 and continue through the summer months. This work will mostly be focused on foundations, underground electrical and sewer work. In addition, work on the secondary vehicle ramp, north and south finger pier and new dolphin will continue into the spring and are expected to progress through the summer.

The Kingston Dock is anticipated to be complete in Spring of 2025, please keep in mind this schedule continues to evolve as work continues.

Fun Fact: Did you know that approximately 9 kilometres of cable must be installed in order to run the Kingston dock systems? That is the equivalent of driving from the Cataraqui Centre to the dock on Ontario Street!



MARYSVILLE DOCK

FACCA Inc. has been working tirelessly on the Marysville Dock over the last six months, and many changes can be seen when passing by on Wolfe Island. With the majority of foundation work having been completed, the contractor has moved their focus to sewers, buildings and electrical work.

The terminal building enclosure has been constructed and interior work is ongoing. In addition, the contractor has begun construction on the utility building, starting with the foundation. The utility building is located on the northeast end of the dock and will become home to important mechanical and electrical equipment, including the BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) that will be used to operate the facility and charge the ferry.

In addition to the new buildings, the contractor has been working towards completing the new finger pier on the northern point of the dock, which is expected to be complete by summer 2023.

In the next few months, you can expect to see progress on both the terminal and utility buildings. As well as all foundation to be completed, along with the large structural elements responsible for supporting the vehicle ramp and mooring equipment. In addition, electrical work will be a major focus for the winter.

The Marysville Dock is anticipated to continue towards completion in fall of 2023, please keep in mind this schedule continues to evolve as work continues.

Fun Fact: Did you know that approximately 25 kilometres of cable must be installed in order to run the dock Marysville Dock systems? That is the equivalent of driving from Dawson Point to Marysville and back four times!



DREDGING PROJECT

Kehoe Marine is working on the final touch ups and verification surveys. We are pleased to report that the dredging contract is expected to be complete, and the contractor should be demobilized from the site by the end of December of 2022.

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December 23, 2022

Her Worship Judy Greenwood-Speers
Mayor
Township of Frontenac Islands
1991 County Road 96
Wolfe Island, ON K0N 2Y0

Email: JGreenwoodspeers@frontenacislands.ca

Dear Mayor Greenwood-Speers,

It was a pleasure for me and Colin Simons to meet with you on November 22, 2022, to discuss ferry services in Eastern Ontario. I wanted to reach out to confirm what we discussed and provide some updates regarding the ongoing dock construction.

As we discussed, there are two factors that have impacted the timing of having the Wolfe Islander IV in service. First, the challenge of having marine staff available to operate the existing service while other staff were undergoing training and testing on the new vessel. Second, modifications at the existing Kingston dock are necessary to accommodate the larger size of the new vessel during construction of the new dock.

The ministry has developed an interim plan that will allow the new vessel to be in service in spring 2023.

There is a shortage of seafarers being experienced industry-wide, which is tied to the current national labour shortage. This has resulted in a limited talent pool available for recruitment to the ministry's ferry services, and for ferry services in general.

The ministry is seeking to hire and train temporary staff to provide a back-up crew on the existing ferries while permanent staff are trained on the new vessel. The ministry and Loyalist Township will work together to complete necessary training in accordance with Transport Canada regulations for crews to operate both the Wolfe Islander IV and the Amherst Islander II.

For the construction that is underway at the Kingston and Marysville docks, the ministry's contractors are working hard to complete the work. However, due to design changes, including those to support the new electric ferries, the completion dates for both docks have been delayed. The Marysville dock is now anticipated to be complete in late 2023 and the Kingston dock is now anticipated to be complete in 2025.

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The ministry understands that these new dates will be a concern for many, but to ensure that the ministry and taxpayers end up with a safe and reliable mode of transportation, we can't rush this work to completion.

While those construction projects continue, the Wolfe Islander IV will begin operating out of Dawson Point on Wolfe Island. On the Kingston side, temporary modifications are currently being made to the existing dock to allow the vessel to operate while construction on the new dock continues.

During this interim phase, there may be constraints to the service level experienced by ferry users. To address questions from the community and provide more information about the implementation plan for the new vessels, the ministry has developed the attached fact sheet that will also be distributed to the public and posted online in the new year.

If you have any further inquiries related to the Eastern Ontario ferry services, please feel free to reach out to myself at Herb.Villneff@ontario.ca or to Colin Simons, Director Transportation User Services, at Colin.Simons@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Herb Villneff
Director, East Operation

Attachment: *Fact Sheet: Wolfe Island Ferry Services*

Fact Sheet: Wolfe Island Ferry Services

About the Project

The Wolfe Islander IV ferry is one of the first electric passenger and vehicle ferries in Ontario. It can carry more people, vehicles, and goods to and from Wolfe Island in an environmentally friendly way.

Current Status

Before the Wolfe Islander IV ferry can be put in service, crew must complete necessary training in accordance with Transport Canada regulations. In addition, there are some temporary infrastructure modifications required at the existing Kingston dock to accommodate the new vessel during construction of the new dock. MTO is currently tracking towards having the Wolfe Islander IV in service in spring 2023. During this initial stage passengers may experience temporary service delays.

Staffing

The marine industry is experiencing an industry-wide seafarer shortage that has impacted the Wolfe Islander IV ferry's in-service date. This shortage has also made it challenging to find qualified staff to operate the ferries and has led to service disruptions to ferry schedules on some occasions. MTO and Loyalist Township are working in partnership to complete necessary training in accordance with Transport Canada regulations for crews to operate the Wolfe Islander IV and the Amherst Islander II. Temporary staff are being hired and trained to provide a back-up crew on the existing ferries while permanent staff are trained on the new vessel.

Construction

The Wolfe Islander IV ferry is larger than its predecessors. So, the Kingston and Marysville Wolfe Island ferry docks need to be reconstructed and the channel of the Kingston to Wolfe Island ferry route needs to be dredged to accommodate it. Construction on the Marysville dock is tracking towards completion in late 2023. Until then, the new ferry will operate out of Dawson Point. Construction on the new Kingston ferry dock is tracking towards completion in 2025. Temporary modifications are being made to the existing Kingston dock as an interim solution to be able to accept the new ferry while construction on the other docks continues.

How to stay informed

To see the latest updates, please visit wolfeislanddocks.ca. To contact us, and sign up for email alerts, please email mtoferryinfo@ontario.ca, and request to be added to the Wolfe Island distribution list. You can also follow [Wolfe Islander III](#) on Twitter for the latest ferry service updates.