

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYNE ISLAND  
FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES  
April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**COPING WITH FERRY CHALLENGES THROUGH THE COMING SUMMER MONTHS**

Following is an updated excerpt from our Ferry Facts article published in the July 2021 MayneLiner. Unfortunately, the information is even more relevant this summer.

With a huge population increase on all our islands, the absence of the new Salish vessel we were expecting to be in service this summer and the significant crewing challenges BC Ferries (BCF) is trying to manage, we need to be prepared for overloads, delays and even sailing cancellations.

Here are a few ideas to help ensure our essential service providers are on the sailings they need to take, and to alleviate some of the stress on the system, BCF staff and crew -- and our patience levels:

- Avoid travelling on the early morning weekday ferry to Swartz Bay. We share the Queen of Cumberland with Galiano and Saturna and it is always very busy.
- If at all possible, plan your day around taking the later morning sailing via Pender (not the busy early afternoon sailing from Galiano) and coming back on the evening ferry instead of one of the late afternoon sailings.
- If you do have to travel to Swartz Bay on an early morning weekday ferry and return on an afternoon sailing, please be sure you are at the ferry terminals at either end at least an hour ahead. Even then, you won't be guaranteed to get on.
- Remember that Saturna residents get priority boarding on the weekday afternoon ferry that comes to Mayne via Saturna.
- For much less chance of encountering traffic congestion or delays, travel to Swartz Bay on a Saturday or Sunday morning.
- If you are driving, help create more deck space for more vehicles by taking a car instead of a truck, van or camper van.
- Can you carpool with a friend or neighbour or travel as a foot passenger?
- If you are travelling for a medical appointment, is it possible to book one that allows you to take a later sailing? If they know in advance, most health care providers on Vancouver Island do their best to accommodate Gulf Islanders' dependence on ferries.
- But again, if you do have to travel on that early morning sailing to get to a medical appointment, make sure you are at the ferry terminal at least an hour in advance of departure time.
- You may want to avoid any unnecessary travel to and from Vancouver Island.
- As well, if you are travelling on Route 9 between Tsawwassen and the SGI, be sure to make reservations. And be prepared for cancellations and the potential of having to travel thru-fare via Swartz Bay.