

# Move ferry, commercial traffic to Duke Point

BY FRED MCCREATH, THE DAILY NEWS FEBRUARY 24, 2011

It has been suggested that the Gabriola ferry terminal in Nanaimo should be moved to Duke Point. Many have complained that driving to Duke Point would prove to be a hardship for many Gabriolans.

Perhaps the best solution would be: Move the ferry to Duke Point, and move the BC Transit Nanaimo terminal, presently on Prideaux Street, to the assembly wharf area near the soon to be finished cruise ship terminal (cruise ships will require bus access in any event), and provide bus service to the Duke Point Terminal for walk-on passengers headed to Gabriola or

, and provide space on the new cruise ship pier for a privately operated passenger-only ferry to operate between the new cruise ship terminal and the existing Gabriola ferry terminal on the island.

The reduction in the amount of subsidy required to operate the Gabriola ferry service should assist in keeping fares at reasonable levels.

At the same time the Gabriola Ferry is moved, perhaps, the truck/container ferries could be moved to Duke Point as well.

Elimination of the ferry and commercial traffic between Cameron Island and the cruise ship terminal would make it possible to develop a spectacular waterfront residential, commercial, and retail facility that would support both the citizens of Nanaimo and visitors.

Fred McCreath

Nanaimo