

Gulf Island residents pay for Ferries' largesse

BY SUE SHARP, TIMES COLONIST FEBRUARY 8, 2011

As usual the Gulf Islands are the targets of the increases. There is no doubt that the Liberal government wants to make B.C. Ferries user-pay only.

There has been no increase in subsidy for B.C. Ferries since 2004, hence the twice-annual fare increases, which are getting worse. In five years my ferry fare will have increased 56 per cent.

What is it that B.C. Ferries and Premier Gordon Campbell don't understand? The more the fares go up, the less I travel. My dollar only goes so far. Ridership for Gabriola Island in 2010 was down -I wonder why? The more that fares are increased, the less people will travel. It doesn't take a genius to figure that out.

Increases in any mode of transport are always expected, but this is getting ludicrous. I would suggest that any tax increases on the mainland for public transport are nowhere near the increases Vancouver and the Gulf Islands have had to endure since Campbell came on the scene.

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Gabriola Island