

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release 19-035

June 26, 2019

BUSY LONG WEEKEND AHEAD ON HORSESHOE BAY – LANGDALE ROUTE Queen of Coquitlam removed from service for approximately one week

VICTORIA - BC Ferries is advising customers that the Horseshoe Bay (West Vancouver) – Langdale (Sunshine Coast) route will be extremely busy Thurs., June 27 through Tues., July 2 for the Canada Day long weekend. The Queen of Coquitlam has been removed from service for approximately one week to repair a sealing mechanism on the propeller blades.

The Queen of Surrey remains the primary vessel on the run, providing eight round trips per day. Customers with reservations on the Queen of Surrey are unaffected. The Queen of Coquitlam was scheduled to provide three or four round trips per day, depending on the day. Due to the unexpected mechanical issue with the Queen of Coquitlam, its sailings are cancelled. Unfortunately due to peak season demand, all other major vessels are serving other communities and can't be redeployed to sail in its place.

BC Ferries is doing everything it can to make repairs to the Queen of Coquitlam as quickly as possible. To assist customers who plan to travel this route, BC Ferries is adding the following sailings at the beginning and end of the day:

June 27

- 7:30 p.m. sailing from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale (Queen of Cowichan)
- 8:30 p.m. sailing from Langdale to Horseshoe Bay (Queen of Cowichan)

June 28, 29, July 2

- 4:00 a.m. sailing from Langdale to Horseshoe Bay (Queen of Surrey)
- 5:10 a.m. sailing from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale (Queen of Surrey)

<u>June 28</u>

• 11:50 p.m. sailing from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale (Queen of Cowichan)

July 2

• 12:30 a.m. sailing from Langdale to Horseshoe Bay (Queen of Surrey)

<u>June 27 – July 1</u>

Up to three 40-person water taxis will follow the original Queen of Coquitlam schedule and provide service between the Horseshoe Bay government dock and Langdale terminal.

June 27, 28

- 9:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 2:05 p.m., 4:20 p.m. water taxi sailings from Langdale
- 10:40 a.m., 12:55 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:30 p.m. water taxi sailings from Horseshoe Bay

June 29

- 7:05 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m. water taxi sailings from Langdale
- 8:20 a.m., 10:40 a.m., 1:35 p.m. water taxi sailings from Horseshoe Bay

June 30, July 1

- 11:45 a.m., 2:05 p.m., 4:20 p.m. water taxi sailings from Langdale
- 12:55 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:30 p.m. water taxi sailings from Horseshoe Bay

In addition to these extra sailings, our operational teams will be monitoring traffic levels closely over the long weekend, and the company has the ability to add extra service at the end of the night if the need arises.

Congestion is expected on the approach to Horseshoe Bay terminal at the beginning of the long weekend and at Langdale terminal at the end of the long weekend. Traffic control personnel will be on site. Please obey the direction of flaggers and crew.

In order to make informed travel plans, suggestions for customers travelling from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale without vehicle reservations include:

- Travel as a foot passenger
- Take public transit to and from the ferry terminals or have a friend or family member drop you off; terminal parking lots will reach capacity early in the weekend
- Consider travelling Saturday night and Sunday, the least busy travel days of the long weekend
- Friday and Saturday will be busiest days from Horseshoe Bay
- Monday will be the busiest day returning from Langdale; consider travelling early in the morning or late at night

Customers who had reservations on sailings that have been cancelled will be contacted via email by BC Ferries Customer Care to notify them of the cancellation of their reservation or sailing time change. BC Ferries will move customers to the next available sailing wherever possible.

To assist with travel planning, customers are encouraged to check the <u>Travel Advisory</u> on <u>bcferries.com</u> and follow @BCFerries on Twitter for the most up-to-date information.

BC Ferries recognizes how much this unexpected ship removal from service affects its customers and the travel plans they have made, especially over this long weekend. The company appreciates your patience and apologizes for disrupting travel plans on this important holiday weekend. Please keep in mind that this situation is also challenging for the front line staff and BC Ferries requests that every employee be treated with respect.

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