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<https://www.cheknews.ca/hornby-island-ferry-delays-cause-growing-concern-for-travellers-economy-1077114/>

Travelling to and from Hornby Island could be harder this year than it’s ever been, according to those who sail the route on BC Ferries.

Tuesday saw long lines of vehicles filled with weary travellers trying to get to Hornby Island from Gravelly Bay on Denman Island and long lines earlier in the day as people waited to leave.

Sarah Sharratt, her friend Brittany Sanddar, each with their two children, had travelled from Nanaimo to Hornby Island for a day trip but found four sailing waits at Gravelly Bay.

“We would not have made this trip today if we knew in advance,” said Sharratt. “It’s just too much for the kids and then when you get there, for the amount of time you actually get to spend there, you’ve travelled more than you get to enjoy the beach.”

“I wanted to be back at four and now it’s not happening, it’s already 11 o’clock,” added Sanddar.

The waits were even longer Monday as a line of traffic stretched over a kilometre long.

A ferry crew member took ill, and had to be replaced which took hours.

But according to locals, the current ferry, Kahloke, isn’t big enough to handle normal day-to-day traffic let alone big backups like the one Monday even when it’s shuttling back and forth without stopping.

“Yesterday was painful because it’s a Monday and people who travel on a Monday think that they’re beating the Sunday lines,” said Karen Ross, economic enhancement officer for the Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation.

“The concerns are really about broken supply chains, the inflationary pressures of our suppliers putting up the costs of deliveries which is all paid for by the end consumer.”

A [petition](https://www.change.org/p/immediately-upgrade-hornby-ferry-route-22-to-a-newer-vessel-with-serviceable-capacity) demanding a new larger ferry has over 2000 signatures. They are demanding a ferry with twice the capacity of the current one that can carry roughly 21 vehicles.

**READ MORE:**[**Hornby Island residents call for upgrade to 49-year-old ferry**](https://www.cheknews.ca/hornby-island-residents-call-for-upgrade-to-49-year-old-ferry-994308/)