

Cross-lake water taxis on 'Highway H20' takes lots of rubber off the road

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Re: 'Mid-Pen road would ease QEW snarl' (Opinion, Jan. 12)

Columnist Eric Cunningham makes some cogent points about how this road is essential to relieve the now virtually constant QEW traffic snarl. However, I believe the province should do some outside-the-box thinking as well.

My suggestion is to consider a water-borne people and small goods movement fleet that would run up the coast of Lake Ontario from Niagara to Toronto and beyond. Indeed, a Hamilton company -- Reflex Advanced Marine (RAM) -- already has the capability of designing such a water taxi that could even be painted with GO Transit colours. RAM's three-hulled design produces a vessel that's fast, manoeuvrable, fuel efficient and comfortable. It can be built to hold more than 120 people.

Imagine walking aboard water transit at, say, Confederation Park, and cruising to Toronto for work far more quickly than taking a car, even with stops at places such as Oakville and Mississauga.

Imagine summer weekends when Torontonians could board a water taxi for a direct trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake to see the Shaw Festival or continue a short distance by bus to take in the delights of Niagara Falls.

Using Highway H20 for this purpose would certainly take a lot of rubber off our busy roads.