

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport Ferry

The Ferry

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport is located on Toronto Island. Prior to the pedestrian tunnel's opening in July 2015, Billy Bishop Airport was only accessible by ferry.

The 90-second ferry ride is one of the shortest scheduled ferry rides in the world and travels across the 400-foot-wide Western Gap on Lake Ontario.



The airport is primarily serviced by the *Marilyn Bell I*, which was put into service in 2010. The ferry is named after the beloved Canadian swimmer Marilyn Bell Di Lascio who swam across Lake Ontario in 1954 at age 16.

The ferry's name was chosen through a contest held in late 2009 and more than a thousand entries were submitted.

The *Marilyn Bell I*:

- can carry 15 regular-sized vehicles at a time
- can accommodate 200 passengers on its upper deck
- is owned and operated by the Toronto Port Authority, which also oversees the airport
- was built in Wheatley, ON, on the northwest shore of Lake Erie, by Hike Metal Products
- dimensions are 29.26 metres by 11.5 metres, or 96 feet by 37 feet and it weighs 270 tonnes
- is not the only ferry at the airport. The backup ferry is called the *David Hornell*. It is used when the *Marilyn Bell I* needs to be serviced or repaired.
- has a crew of at least four on board at all times. This crew usually comprises a Marine Captain, two marine mates and a deckhand, a marine engineer is also on board on various shifts.
- *Marilyn Bell I* has a numeral at the end of its name to distinguish it from a small vessel operating in Nova Scotia also named after Bell