



Application of the “Two Hour Rule”

April 23, 2026

The “Two Hour Rule” is in place to facilitate access for commercial vessels into and out of the inner harbour. The rule will be implemented according to section 13 of the Town of Goderich by-law No. 59 of 2013. Application of the rule is at the discretion of the Harbourmaster.

Where a vessel is berthed at docks 1, or 2, or along the South Pier and impedes access to the inner harbour for an inbound or outbound vessel, the berthed vessel will be ordered to vacate the berth and allow passage of the inbound or outbound vessel. If the berthed vessel will delay the inbound or outbound vessel by two hours or less due to the active loading or unloading of cargo, the berthed vessel may remain in place for no more than two hours to complete their operation.

A vessel whose passage into or out of the inner harbour is blocked must provide six hours of notice to the harbourmaster before the intended transit time. Whenever possible, it is requested to provide as much notice as possible to best coordinate the harbour traffic.

In certain circumstances an inbound or outbound commercial vessel may pass around a vessel berthed at dock 1. If both vessels are over 500 Gross Tonnes, both vessels’ Masters and the Harbourmaster must agree to the maneuver ahead of time.

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