

# Centre Wellington Bridge 4-WG



Photograph by Melissa Davies, 2012

| General Information                      | Physical Details               |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Bridge No. CW3                           | Type: Concrete Bowstring Arch  |
| Ownership: Township of Centre Wellington | Span: Single                   |
| Construction Date: 1923                  | Dimensions: 7.3m x 6.2m (LxW)  |
| Water Crossing: Unknown                  | Materials: Reinforced Concrete |



| Evaluation Form  | Check |
|--|-------|
| <b>Design/Physical Value</b>   |       |
| I. Is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method                                | ✓     |
| II. Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit  |       |
| III. Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement   |       |
| <b>Historic/Associative Value</b>  |       |
| I. Has direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to the community         | ✓     |
| II. Yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of the community or culture                            |       |
| III. Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, engineer, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community |       |
| <b>Contextual Value</b>  |       |
| I. Is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area  | ✓     |
| II. Is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings   |       |
| III. Is a landmark   |       |

## General Description

Centre Wellington Bridge 4-WG is located on Fifth Line, 0.6 km south of Wellington Road 18. It was constructed in 1923 and is one of only seven remaining concrete bowstring arch bridges built in the Township of Centre Wellington from roughly 1915 to 1930. At one time, 36 concrete bowstring arch bridges were found in Wellington County, with a high concentration in Centre Wellington. The bowstring design was popular during this period as it required minimal material, was simple to install, represented newer construction materials and could easily accommodate vehicular traffic.

Charles Mattaini, a local bridge builder who immigrated to Canada from northern Italy, is likely responsible for the design and/or construction of this bridge. In Italy, bowstring bridges were common and Mattaini studied their design and how to work with cement. He is credited with bringing the bowstring design to southern Ontario where he constructed many of these bridges in Wellington County between 1903 and 1929.

While of a basic type, there is considerable variety among all the bowstring truss structures in Wellington County. Centre Wellington Bridge 4-WG, because it spans across a small stream, is relatively small with shorter concrete arches. It displays decorative concrete balustrades and chamfered posts that flank each arch.

Sources: Pat Mestern, 2012  
 David Cuming, *Discovering Heritage Bridges on Ontario Roads*, 1983  
 GRCA Heritage Bridge Inventory  
 Township of Centre Wellington 2008 Structure Inventory Data

