Sproules Bridge

(Amaranth Structure No. 13)

Photograph by Melissa Davies, 2012

General Information	Physical Details
Bridge No. A2	**Type**: Concrete Bowstring Arch
Ownership: Township of Amaranth	**Span**: Single
Construction Date: 1912	**Dimensions**: 3.9m Width
Water Crossing: Willow Brook	**Materials**: Reinforced Concrete

Evaluation Form	Check
Design/Physical Value	
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	
Historic/Associative Value	
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	
Contextual Value	
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

Sproules Bridge is located on 6th Line, 0.4 km north of 15th Sideroad. It was constructed in 1912 and represents the oldest concrete bowstring arch bridge remaining in the Grand River watershed. It is also one of only two remaining concrete bowstring arch bridges in the Township, along with Jonston Bridge.

The bowstring design was popular in the early 1900s as it required minimal material, was simple to install, represented newer construction materials and could easily accommodate vehicular traffic. Many of these structures were built in the Grand River watershed, however they are quickly disappearing due to demolition and replacement with wider, more load-bearing structures.

While of a basic type, there is considerable variety among bowstring truss structures. Sproules Bridge has relatively small arches and its concrete trusses and railings are uniquely thin. Concrete railings flank each arch of the bridge and end with a decoratively topped post. The thin board finish is still visible in the concrete and a plaque appears to be missing from the bridge.

Sources: *Township of Amaranth 2008 Structure Inventory*
Grand River Watershed - Bridge in MCzCR Inventory
Discovering Heritage Bridges on Ontario Roads, David Cuming, 1983