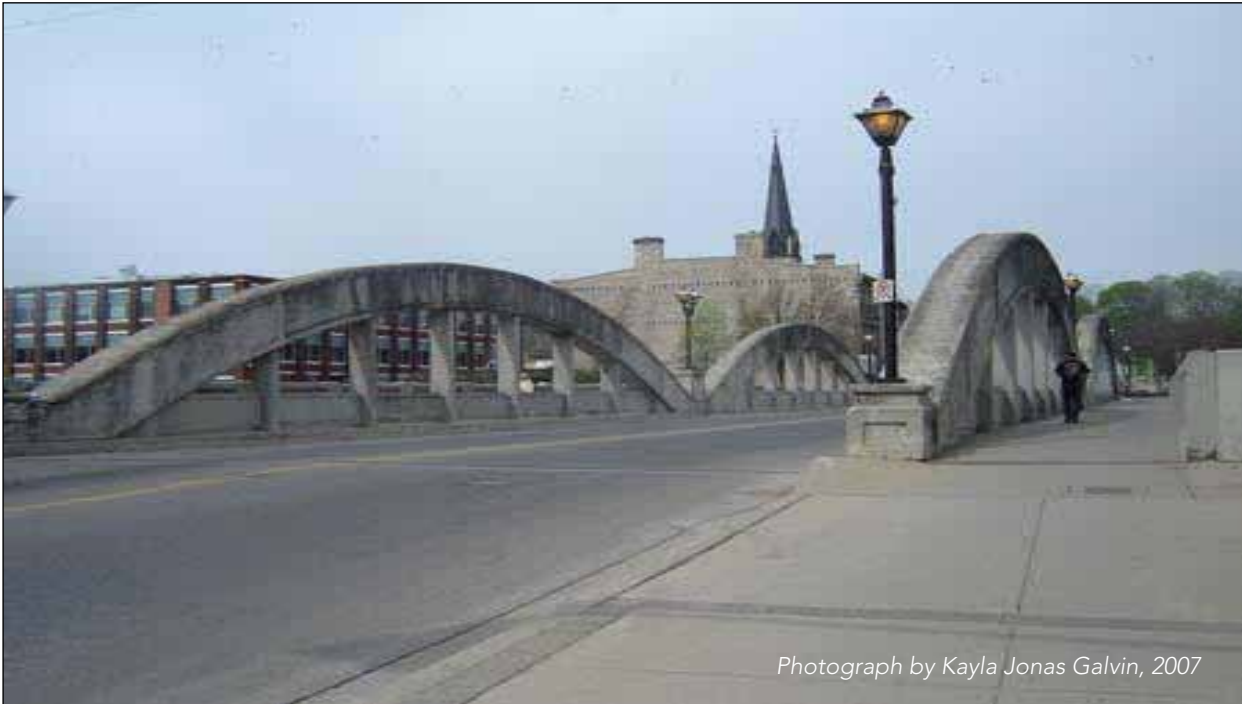


# Main Street Bridge



General Information	Physical Details
Bridge No. C1	Type: Concrete Bowstring Arch
Ownership: Regional Municipality of Waterloo	Span: Two
Construction Date: 1931	Dimensions: 59.6m x 18.5m (LxW)
Water Crossing: Grand River	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

The Main Street Bridge spans the Grand River between Water and Melville Streets, in the former City of Galt, now the City of Cambridge. The bridge is a multiple-span concrete bowstring arch bridge and was constructed in 1931. The property was designated by the City of Cambridge in 1982 for its heritage value under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (By-law 2225). The Cambridge Main Street Bridge has also been listed on the Ontario Heritage Bridge list, a list of provincially-significant bridges maintained by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Cambridge's Main Street Bridge is located in the historic centre of the former City of Galt and spans the Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River. It is part of a group of four multiple-span concrete bowstring arch bridges spanning the Grand River that were erected in the same time period and in a similar style. These bridges are a part of the upgrading work that took place to the transportation networks in Ontario, after the First World War, to accommodate the increased number of automobiles. This group includes two other bridges within the Region of Waterloo, the Freeport Bridge and the Bridgeport Bridge in Kitchener. The fourth bridge, the Caledonia Bridge is located in the community of Caledonia.

The Cambridge Main Street Bridge crosses the Grand River and connects the east and west sides of downtown Galt, making it the most important bridge in the City of Cambridge. The first bridge on this site was a three-span steel truss bridge built in 1819 and rebuilt 1858. The current bridge was commissioned by the former City of Galt, at a cost of approximately \$55,000. The structure was designed by Archibald B. Crealock, a consulting engineer from Toronto and was built in four months, by W.H. Yates Construction Company Limited of Hamilton. The official opening of the Main Street Bridge took place on December 22, 1931.

The Cambridge Main Street Bridge is a reinforced concrete bowstring arch bridge with decorative concrete rails and balustrades. The bridge's bowstring design was popular in the 1920s and 1930s as it required minimal material, was simple to install and could easily accommodate vehicular traffic. The bridge's abutments and piers are built entirely on limestone bedrock. Two lanes of cars can cross the bridge and eight-foot wide sidewalks, one on either side of the vehicular traffic, allow for safe pedestrian passage.

Sources: *City of Cambridge By-law 2225; City of Cambridge Report, 2002; Municipal Structure Inspection Form, County of Brant; Spanning the Generations, Phase 2*



## Main Street Bridge

**Location** MTO Site No. 33-180, Main Street, 0.1 km west of Water Street, City of Cambridge.

### General Information

<i>Bridge No.</i>	002703
<i>Jurisdiction</i>	Regional Municipality of Waterloo
<i>Year built</i>	1931
<i>Drawings</i>	City of Cambridge and Regional HQ

### Physical Components

<i>Type</i>	Concrete Bowstring
<i>Spans</i>	2
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length 59.6 m Each Span 29.5 m Width 18.5 m
<i>Load Limit</i>	None posted

### Descriptive details

This is a two-span concrete bowstring arch bridge with a concrete deck and concrete wearing surface. It has concrete balustrade handrails and sidewalks which are in good condition. It crosses the Grand River in the heart of old Galt. Bowstring symbols are used throughout the downtown to indicate historic tourist attractions. These include but are not limited to: City Hall, City Archives and the Market Square. This bridge has been a designated structure since 1982.



**Main Street Bridge**

West View



South View

