

## 4.2.12

## Shade Street Bridge

Score: 58

Wilmot Township



### Documentation

#### Builder

The Shade Street Bridge was built by the Canadian Bridge Company.<sup>223</sup>

#### Age

The Shade Street Bridge was built in 1953.<sup>224</sup> At this time, it was not common to see bridges constructed of steel as concrete was the new material of the time.<sup>225</sup>

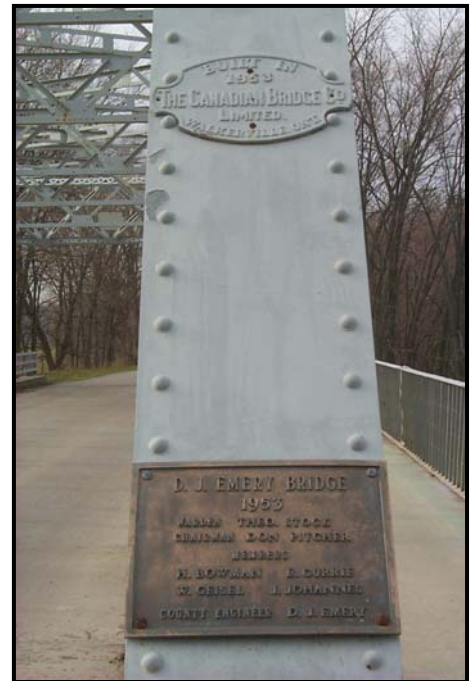
### Technology

#### Materials

The Shade Street Bridge truss is made of steel and reinforced concrete and has been riveted together.<sup>226</sup>

#### Design/Style

The Shade Street Bridge is a single span steel through truss with reinforced concrete deck.<sup>227</sup> The bridge is 150' long, 20' wide, with a vertical clearance of 14' 10" and has a 4' wide sidewalk on its north side.<sup>228</sup>



<sup>223</sup> Spanning the Generations – Phase 1: Inventory, “Shade Street Bridge,” May 2004, p. 2.01- 2.02.

<sup>224</sup> Ibid.

<sup>225</sup> Cuming, David, “Discovering Heritage Bridges on Ontario’s Roads.”

<sup>226</sup> Spanning the Generations – Phase 1: Inventory, “Shade Street Bridge,” May 2004, p. 2.01- 2.02. & E. Kelley & Associates Limited, Shade Street Bridge Rehabilitation: New Hamburg, Ontario, June 15, 1988.

<sup>227</sup> Spanning the Generations – Phase 1: Inventory, “Shade Street Bridge,” May 2004, p. 2.01- 2.02.

<sup>228</sup> London Free Press. “New Hamburg Span Opening Slated Today.” December 9, 1953. & W.E. Kelley & Associates Limited, Shade Street Bridge Rehabilitation: New Hamburg, Ontario, June 15, 1988.

## Prototype

This bridge is not a prototype as it is built in similar design to the Hartman Bridge, which was built at an earlier date of 1936.<sup>229</sup>

## Structural Integrity

In June of 1988, W.E. Kelley and Associated Limited, Consulting Engineers and Planners were asked to evaluate the state of the Shade Street Bridge and recommend what should be done to rehabilitate the structure. They discovered that there were three main issues with the bridge: it was rusting which was weakening the structure, its deck drains were not deep enough which contributed to the rusting of the substructure and the expansion joint on the west end of the bridge was missing. So, in August of the same year, the bridge was closed for approximately four weeks and was rehabilitated by Reymer Construction Limited. Repairs included: sandblasting, painting, extension of the deck drains, and the installation of a new expansion joint.<sup>230</sup> In December of 1989, W.E. Kelley inspected what had been done to the bridge previously and told Dyna-Blast, who had fixed part of the structure, that there were “some signs of rusting underneath the coating” and that they would like this “touched up when weather conditions permitted.”<sup>231</sup>

## Bridge Aesthetics and Environment

### Integrity

The current Shade Street Bridge is in its original location. Therefore it has high integrity.<sup>232</sup>

### Landmark

The Shade Street Bridge is not a very significant landmark as the Hartman Bridge located east of the Shade Street Bridge is more well-known. However, it was plaqued as the “D.J. Emery Bridge” after the death of the Waterloo County Engineer, who worked for the County from 1932 until 1953. The Bridge provides remembrance of him.<sup>233</sup>

### Gateway

The Shade Street Bridge spans the Nith River on Shade Street in New Hamburg. It provides a gateway to New Hamburg.

### Character Contribution

The Shade Street Bridge contributes to the character of Wilmot. It has a similar design to the Hartman Bridge, and it also contributes to the rustic and rural image of Wilmot Township.<sup>234</sup>

<sup>229</sup> Spanning the Generations – Phase 1: Inventory, “Shade Street Bridge & Hartman Bridge,” May 2004, p. 2.01 - 2.02.

<sup>230</sup> Corporation of the Township of Wilmot. “Shade Street Bridge Restoration Contract 88-10.” August 1988.

<sup>231</sup> W.E. Kelley & Associates Limited. Letter to Dyna Blast, Cambridge, Ontario. December 7, 1989. In Wilmot\_Township Shade Street Bridge Folder, Township of Wilmot, Ontario, 1989.

<sup>232</sup> London Free Press. “New Hamburg Span Opening Slated Today.” December 9, 1953.

<sup>233</sup> Ibid.

<sup>234</sup> Spanning the Generations – Phase 2: Heritage Assessment, “Hartman Bridge,” May 2004

## History of Shade Street Bridge Crossing

The Shade Street Bridge that existed prior to the current 1953 bridge was originally at the Hartman Bridge location and was 100-feet long.<sup>235</sup> This iron bridge was built in 1882, and was tossed away from its abutments after a flood on the Nith River in 1883. It wasn't until 1903 that the Bridge was moved to Shade Street. It is assumed that this bridge was demolished sometime around 1953 because that is when the current Shade Street Bridge was built. It is known that the current bridge was repainted in 1985.<sup>236</sup> In 2004, there were concerns about local youths jumping off of the bridge on hot summer days. At this time signs were placed on the bridge "reminding local youth that jumping is prohibited."<sup>237</sup>

## Historic Association

### Bridge Group

The Shade Street Bridge is similar in design to the Hartman Bridge although it has been found to be sturdier.<sup>238</sup>

### Other Points of Interest

This bridge has also been called Bridge #15.

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<sup>235</sup> London Free Press. "New Hamburg Span Opening Slated Today." December 9, 1953

<sup>236</sup> Spanning the Generations – Phase 1: Inventory, "Shade Street Bridge," May 2004, p. 2.01- 2.02.

<sup>237</sup> New Hamburg Independent. "Fines for bridge jumping." December 1, 2004.

<sup>238</sup> Spanning the Generations – Phase 1: Inventory, "Shade Street Bridge," May 2004, p. 2.01 - 2.02.

# Shade Street Bridge

**Location** Shade Street, New Hamburg, Township of Wilmot.

## General Information

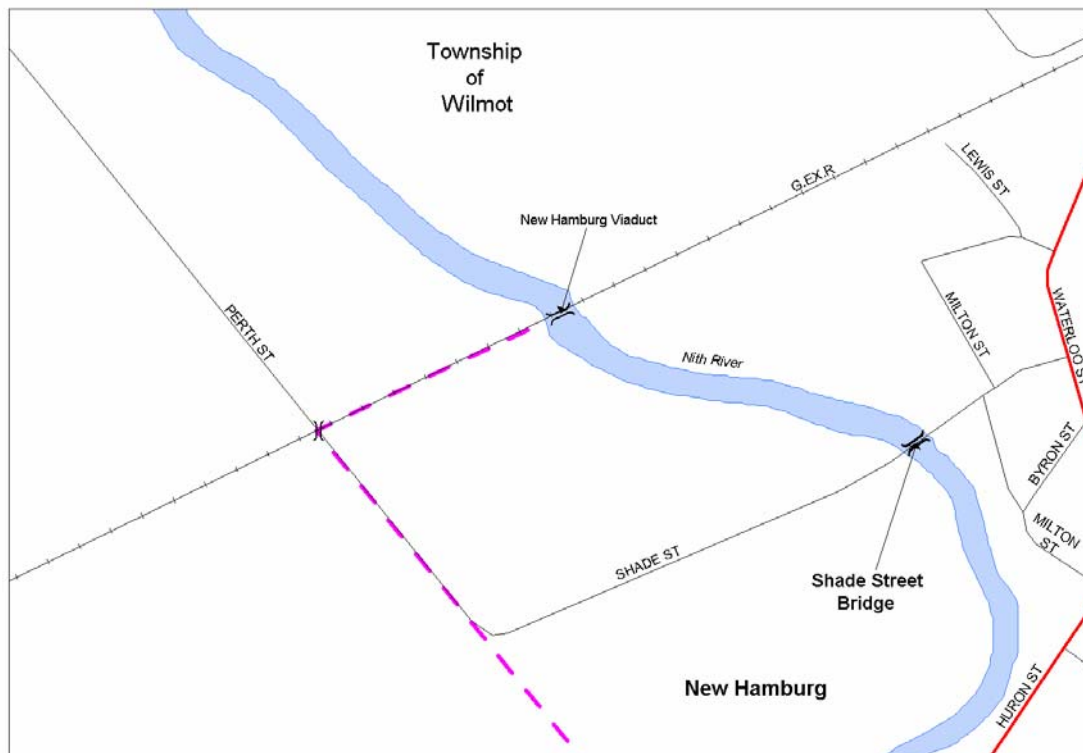
<i>Bridge No.</i>	20015
<i>Jurisdiction</i>	Township of Wilmot
<i>Year built</i>	1953
<i>Drawings</i>	Not available

## Physical Components

<i>Type</i>	Through Truss
<i>Spans</i>	1
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length 46.9 m Width 10.4 m
<i>Load Limit</i>	None posted

## Descriptive details

This bridge is plaqued as the “D.J. Emery Bridge.” D.J. Emery was the Waterloo County Engineer from 1932 until his death in 1953. The bridge was built by the Canadian Bridge Company. This bridge is similar in design to the Hartman Bridge but sturdier. It was repainted in 1985.



Source: Planning Housing and Community Services, Region of Waterloo

# Shade Street Bridge

## West View



## South View



## Shade Street Bridge Bibliography

Corporation of the Township of Wilmot. Shade Street Bridge Restoration Contract 88-10. August 1988.

Cuming, David. Discovering Heritage Bridges on Ontario's Roads. Ontario: Boston Mills Press, Erin, Ontario, 1983.

London Free Press. New Hamburg Span Opening Slated Today. 9 December, 1953.

New Hamburg Independent. Fines for bridge jumping. 1 December, 2004.

New Hamburg Independent. Township of Wilmot Notice. 24 August 1988.

Region of Waterloo: Planning Housing and Community Services Department. Spanning the Generations - Phase 1: Inventory – Shade Street Bridge. May 2004, pp. 1.03 -1.04.

W.E. Kelley & Associates Limited. Letter to Dyna Blast, Cambridge, Ontario. 7 December, 1989. Wilmot Township Shade Street Bridge Folder, Township of Wilmot, Ontario, 1989.

W.E. Kelley and Associates Limited. Shade Street Bridge Rehabilitation: New Hamburg Ontario. Wilmot Township Shade Street Bridge Folder. 15 June, 1988.