

Township of Mapleton Bridge PB024



General Information	Physical Details
Bridge No. ML8	Type: Concrete Bowstring Arch
Ownership: Township of Mapleton	Span: Single
Construction Date: c1920	Dimensions: 9m x 6m (LxW)
Water Crossing: Yatton Creek	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

Bridge PB024 is located on Sideroad 17, 1.3 km south of 4th Line. It was constructed circa 1920 and represents one of only two remaining concrete bowstring arch bridges in the Township of Mapleton, paired with the nearby Bridge PB025. At one time, 36 concrete bowstring arch bridges were found in Wellington County. 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. Bridge PB024 is set quite high above the floodplain and because it spans across a narrow stream, it is relatively small with shorter concrete arches. It displays decorative concrete balustrades and chamfered posts that flank each arch. Vegetation has built up on the sides of the bridge, however it remains open to vehicular traffic.

Sources: *Burnside Municipal Bridge Inspections, Township of Mapleton, 2010*
Discovering Heritage Bridges on Ontario Roads, David Cuming, 1983
Pat Mestern, 2012

