

Centre Wellington Bridge 27-WG



General Information	Physical Details
Bridge No. CW9	Type: Concrete Bowstring Arch
Ownership: Township of Centre Wellington	Span: Single
Construction Date: 1918	Dimensions: 15.3m x 5.4m (LxW)
Water Crossing: Irvine 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

Centre Wellington Bridge 27-WG is located 0.75 km west of Sixth Line on Sideroad 20, which skews to accommodate the alignment of the bridge. It was constructed in 1918, making it one of the earliest of its type in Wellington County. The bridge 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 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 27-WG is a relatively average size overall, with other bridges of its type being found both larger and smaller. The imprints of wooden boards used to set the concrete on site are still visible on the bridge. It displays concrete balustrades imprinted with decorative circles and chamfered posts that flank the north side of the arch.

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

