

Keldon Bridge

(Hooker Bridge)
(ELGV Bridge #1)



Photograph by Melissa Davies, 2012

General Information	Physical Details
Bridge No. GV1	Type: Concrete Bowstring Arch
Ownership: Town of Grand Valley	Span: Single
Construction Date: 1929	Dimensions: 16.4m x 5.5m (LxW)
Water Crossing: Mud 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

Keldon Bridge is located on Sideroad 27-28, 0.3 km south of Highway 89 in the community of Keldon. It was engineered by Christie & Beattie and constructed in 1929. Keldon Bridge represents the only remaining concrete bowstring arch bridge in the Town of Grand Valley. This bridge is paired with the very similar Jonston Bridge in the neighbouring Township of Amaranth, which was also engineered by Christie & Beattie, designed in the same style and constructed in the same year.

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. The concrete trusses on the Keldon Bridge are shallow and thick. Solid railing walls merge into the arch and display decorative embossed squares and a slightly protruding capped end post. Due to damage, only the southwest end post remains. The railings located in the centre of the arch are open balustrades that span between each stringer. The thin board finish is still visible in the concrete.

Keldon Bridge is clearly visible to motorists on Highway 89 as it is set amongst a picturesque agricultural landscape. It thus represents a landmark within the community of Keldon.

Sources: *ELGV Bridge Inspections Summary, 2011*
Ministry of Culture Bridge Inspection Report, 1985
Discovering Heritage Bridges on Ontario Roads, David Cuming, 1983

