

**4.2.7****Winterbourne  
Bridge****Score: 52****Woolwich Township**

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**Documentation****Builder**

The builder of the Winterbourne Bridge is unknown.

**Age**

The Winterbourne Bridge was built in 1913.<sup>134</sup>

**Technology****Materials**

The bridge has a steel frame and a transverse laminated timber deck. Also, the bridge has “light steel rails” for barriers.<sup>135</sup>

**Design/Style**

This bridge is a two-span, steel through camelback truss bridge.<sup>136</sup>

**Prototype**

The Winterbourne Bridge is the oldest existing through camelback truss bridge in Woolwich Township. However, in the Region of Waterloo, the Oxford-Waterloo Road Bridge located in Wilmot Township is the oldest existing through camelback truss bridge being built in 1912, a year earlier than the Winterbourne Bridge.

**Structural Integrity**

In 1900, the previous Winterbourne Bridge received new flooring at a cost of \$352.<sup>137</sup> In 1983, a decision was made by council to give the current Winterbourne Bridge a \$28,000 facelift. This

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<sup>134</sup> Spanning the Generations – Phase 1: Inventory, “Winterbourne Bridge,” May 2004, p. 1.19 – 1.20.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> Region of Waterloo Archives. Grand River Bridge at Winterbourne, 1800s-1900s, p. 37.

involved replacing the oak deck as opposed to spending \$650,000 to build a new bridge.<sup>138</sup> In early July 2001 the “bridge deck was seen to have large holes” in several places. This occurred because drivers began to use the bridge more often because of the closure of the Conestogo Bridge.<sup>139</sup> However, these holes were soon repaired by a crew of Old Order Mennonites.<sup>140</sup> The cost of this repair was between \$30,000 to \$35,000. Later on that summer the bridge’s wooden deck was coated with a tar and chip surface to extend its lifespan.<sup>141</sup> Currently the bridge is in need of repair with its 10-tonne load limit and 20km/hr speed limit.<sup>142</sup>

## Bridge Aesthetics and Environment

### Visual Appeal

Winterbourne Bridge has a very strong visual appeal. It has been captured by a local aerial photographer, Mr. Carl Hiebert. He describes the Winterbourne Bridge aerial photo that he took as:

“WINTERBOURNE – Every year, for a few mornings late summer, I am treated to mesmerizing “steam fog” along lakes and rivers. The water has reached its maximum seasonal temperature while, the land, with shorter days, begins to cool. By nightfall, the river is a warm moisture source for the cooling air mass above. With clear skies and no winds, heavy fog is virtually guaranteed. Finally, the morning sun reveals a fantasy land where bridges are ghostly apparitions and the world ends just a few feet past my wingtip.”<sup>143</sup>

Also, the bridge is so beautiful that it has even been painted by a famous local artist Mr. Peter Etril Snyder. His painting and description of the bridge is following.



**Iron Bridge, Winterbourne Area**  
By Peter Etril Snyder

<sup>138</sup> The Record. “Bridge Receives facelift. May, 1983.

<sup>139</sup> Elmira Independent. “Detour causing havoc on peel Street Bridge. July 13, 2001.

<sup>140</sup> The Record. “Closures spark bridge rage.” July 9, 2001.

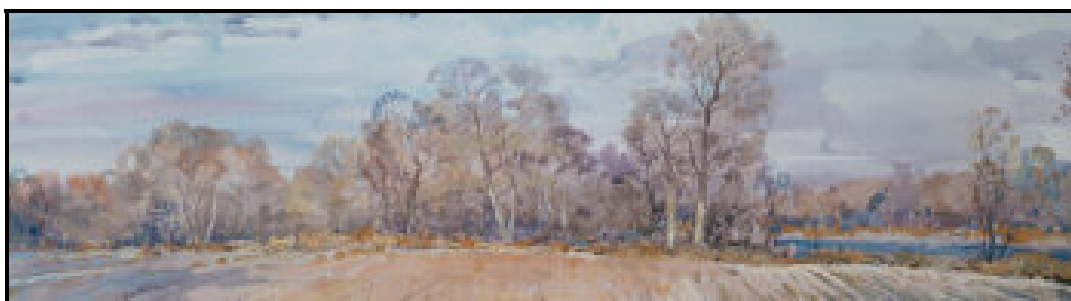
<sup>141</sup> The Record. “Winterbourne – Grand River Bridge may open Monday.” July 14, 2001.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> Carl Hiebert. The Grand River: An Aerial Journey, 2003, p. 8.

*“I realize that sadly it will be only a few years until this elegant skeletal bridge will be dismantled and replaced by a concrete model that more resembles a bunker spanning the river. Endangered by rust and rulings, this once elegant long-lined thoroughbred now straddles the water with more grit than grace. A crossing shows the structure to be arthritic, emitting a tuberculean rumble from her decking as cars cautiously proceed. I have tried to paint my version of so many of these creatures from the early nineteen hundreds. Their days are numbered and so are mine.”<sup>144</sup>*

It has also been said by Samm Mackay of the Kitchener-Waterloo Record that “the best views by far, are from the old fashioned, high, iron bridges [like the Winterbourne Bridge] on our country roads. They offer superb glimpses of both streams and valleys.”<sup>145</sup> The view was so beautiful that artist Mr. Peter Etril Snyder decided to paint the view seen from the Winterbourne Bridge.



**Bordering the Grand near Winterbourne**  
By Peter Etril Snyder

## **Integrity**

The bridge has high integrity, as it has not been moved from its original location in 1913.

## **Landmark**

The bridge is a prominent landmark as it is the only significant double span camelback Pratt through truss bridge in the Region. Also, the bridge “has an imposing iron superstructure...[when] a Mennonite buggy clip clops across, [one] can easily imagine that [they’ve] just been transported backward in time a hundred years or so ago.”<sup>146</sup>

## **Gateway**

It is a gateway to the village of Winterbourne.

<sup>144</sup> Snyder, Peter Etril, Online Gallery, “Iron Bridge, Winterbourne Area”, March 3, 2006.

<sup>145</sup> The Record. “Old bridges add such character.” December 17, 1994.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.



### Character Contribution

The rustic steel bridge strongly contributes to the peaceful environment of the surrounding area.

### History of Winterbourne

Between 1834 and 1837 is when most Scottish settlers moved into the Winterbourne area. At this time, Winterbourne was called, “Cox’s Creek” after Michael Cox, a “blacksmith who lived on the south side of the creek.”<sup>147</sup> In 1854, a Mr. Thomas Lamphier moved into the area and renamed the village Winterbourne, after his hometown in England.<sup>148</sup> Mr. Lamphier was the first to dam Cox’s Creek and build a saw and gristmill at the site. The following photograph shows where Cox’s Creek has been dammed. Then in 1855 he had his land surveyed and divided into individual building lots. The village started off with these two mills until other developments on his lots began to grow around them including a post office, hotel, general store, Presbyterian and Methodist churches and other services. Today Winterbourne is located along Katherine Street at Peel Street, in Woolwich Township.<sup>149</sup>



*Winterbourne Dam, Waterloo County Scenic Calendar, 1944*

Source: Region of Waterloo Website: Historic Place Names of Waterloo County.

<sup>147</sup> Robert Mackie, *The Northern Grand River*, 2002, p. 8.

<sup>148</sup> John Fisher, *A Guide to Pleasant Places and Journeys of Historic Interest within the County of Waterloo*, 1867-1967, pp. 30.

<sup>149</sup> Region of Waterloo Website, “Historic Place Names of Waterloo County - Winterbourne, Woolwich Township”, March 28, 2006.

## History of the Winterbourne Bridge

The first mention for construction of a bridge in Winterbourne over the Grand River was on February 25, 1856, when a petition was submitted to council by a Mr. James Burnett and others. After this petition was submitted, it was stated that by the next council session there should be plans brought forward for a bridge to be built at Winterbourne where the most suitable plans would be offered a premium of £7.10. In May of 1856 a plan submitted by Mr. D.W. Gingrich was selected by council for construction at the Winterbourne location. Then on December 27 of the same year tenders were received from Messrs John Tyson and William Baldwin, however they were too high, and new tenders were sought that were no more than £400 to \$1,600. In the summer of 1889, this bridge was deemed unsafe, and in November and December of the same year new tenders were submitted for the construction of a new bridge. In 1890 a new bridge was constructed at the site by a Mr. Michael Boyle for \$2,909. On April 25, 1893 Mr. James Stall and Mr. Samuel S. Snyder were charged with contracting for the rebuilding of the bridge as it had been swept away by the spring freshet. The cost of rebuilding was \$2,962.28. In October of 1903, measurements indicated that the bridge was 348 feet long by 16 feet wide. This bridge must have been demolished sometime between 1903 and 1913 to make a way for the current Winterbourne Bridge, constructed at the site in 1913.<sup>150</sup>

## Historic Association

### Bridge Group

The Winterbourne Bridge belongs to the group of through camelback truss bridges in Waterloo Region. The other through camelback truss bridges in the Region includes the Oxford-Waterloo Road, the Chamber's and the Bridge Street Bridges.<sup>151</sup> The main difference between these bridges and the Winterbourne Bridge is that the Winterbourne Bridge is a two-span and the others are single span bridges.

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<sup>150</sup> Region of Waterloo Archives. Grand River Bridge at Winterbourne, 1800s-1900s, p. 19-37.

<sup>151</sup> Spanning the Generations – Phase 1: Inventory, “The Oxford-Waterloo, Chambers & Bridge Street Bridges.” May 2004.

# Winterbourne Bridge

**Location** MTO Site No. 033-0049, Peel Street, west of Winterbourne, Township of Woolwich.

## General Information

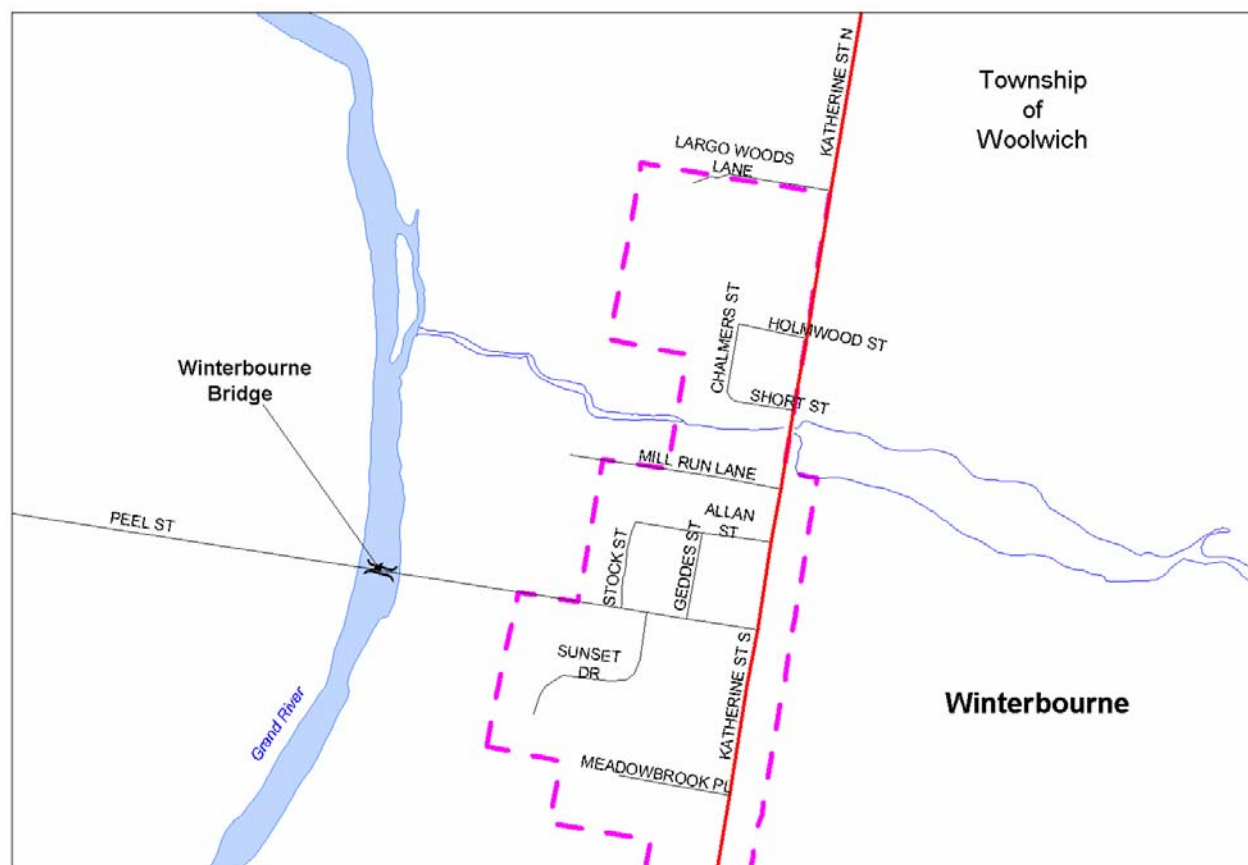
<i>Bridge No.</i>	270148
<i>Jurisdiction</i>	Township of Woolwich
<i>Year built</i>	1913
<i>Drawings</i>	Not available

## Physical Components

<i>Type</i>	through Truss
<i>Spans</i>	2
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length 95 m Each span 46.9 m Width 4.3 m
<i>Load Limit</i>	10 tonnes

## Descriptive details

This is a two-span steel through truss bridge. The deck consists of transverse laminated wood. Light steel pipes act as barrier rails.



Source: Planning Housing and Community Services, Region of Waterloo



# Winterbourne Bridge

## North View



## North West View



## Winterbourne Bridge Bibliography

Elmira Independent. Detour causing havoc on Peel Street Bridge. 13 July, 2001.

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The Record – Kitchener, Waterloo & Waterloo Region. Closures spark bridge rage. 9 July, 2001.

The Record – Kitchener, Waterloo & Waterloo Region. Old bridges add such character. 17 December, 1994.

The Record – Kitchener, Waterloo & Waterloo Region. WINTERBOURNE – Grand River bridge may open Monday. 14 July, 2001.