



Built: 1875
 Built By: Canadian National Railway Co.
 Structure: Cement bridge

Current Owner: Ministry of Transportation
 Original Use: Bridge for vehicles
 Current Use: Bridge for vehicles

Architectural

The bridge which now stands is made of concrete and has concrete support beams and stands beneath the bridge (Fig 2). There are concrete railings on the bridge for safety precautions (Fig 1). The bridge is a very modern structure and does not need much maintenance as it has been built for that reason. As it is seen in Fig 2, the underpass is high as it was built to allow the train to go underneath when it travelled from Midland to its eastern destinations. The bridge originally was made from wood but it was completely rebuilt to meet transportation standards.



Fig 1: Concrete railings



Fig 2: Concrete support



Fig 3: View over the bridge looking north towards Hwy 12

Historical

The Old Fort Rd Bridge was originally a wooden trestle bridge built over the Midland Railway line. Local traffic travelled over the bridge for decades before it was replaced with a more substantial structure. It was put in because of the railway line that ran underneath from Midland

to Port McNicoll and easterly. In January 1875, the Council granted \$300 to build a bridge over the rail line on Old Fort Rd. A swing bridge was to be built by decision of the Provincial authorities. A caretaker was required to take care of a swing bridge and the Council asked for an assistant grant to maintain the bridge in 1878. By 1887, however, the swing bridge was worn out and a grant for \$300 was given to rebuild the bridge as a stationary bridge rather than a swing bridge. The swing bridge would have been built lower than the bridge which stands today. Therefore, the swing was needed to get out of the way of the trains.