

Built: 1873-1875
 Built By: Canadian National Railway Company
 Structure: wooden bridge; steel support

Current Owner: Township of Tay
 Original Use: Bridge for Trains
 Current Use: recreation trail

Architectural

The railway bridge is a common structure that the Canadian National Railway Company built. There is a narrow river to cross and unlike in the pictures, the bridge did not have any guard rails (Fig 2) because it was not used for walking trails as trains were common on the tracks. The bridge is supported by logs (Fig 1) and steel. The logs line up under each end of the bridge in a line against the embankment. The steel support is directly underneath the entire length of the surface of the bridge (Fig 1). It was required for the weight of the trains passing over the bridge. The surface of the bridge is timber and still has raised wood where the tracks use to be situated (Fig 3).



Fig 1: Log support on end of bridge and steel support beam

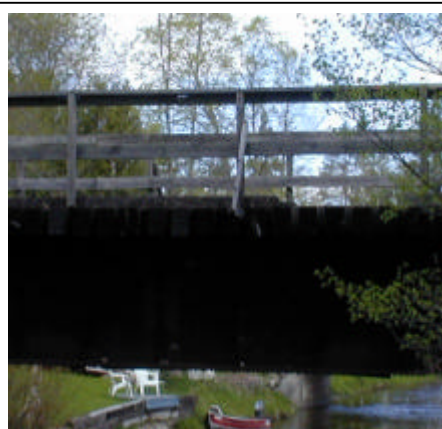


Fig 2: Guard Rails



Fig 3: Timber on surface of bridge

Historical

The Canadian National Railway created smaller railway lines radiating from Toronto, connecting growing communities deeper in the province and to Georgian Bay known as the

Midland Railway route. The bridge behind Hwy 12 just off of Duffey Rd is part of the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton Railway line off of the Midland Railway route. The bridge was constructed between the years of 1873 and 1875. It was officially opened for traffic in 1879. The railway was officially abandoned in 1994 but trains stopped running 2 years earlier. The bridge is still used today as part of a recreation trail. In the winter, snowmobiles use the trail as way to travel and the summer as a biking and walking trail.