



HERITAGE PLANNING
& ARCHAEOLOGY

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12 July 2024

Neil MacDonald, P. Eng
Manager Capital Delivery | Operations & Infrastructure
Town of Georgina
26557 Civic Centre Rd.
Keswick, ON
L4P 3G1

**Re: Letter of Opinion Mossington Bridge modifications cultural heritage review,
LHC0457**

Dear Mr. MacDonald

LHC Heritage Planning & Archaeology Inc. (LHC) is pleased to provide a letter of opinion from a heritage conservation perspective regarding the Town's plans to implement focused safety measures on the Mossington Bridge that carries Hedge Road over the Black River. It is understood that the proposed safety measures may impact the cultural heritage value or interest and heritage attributes or Character-Defining Elements of the Bridge. LHC has prepared a technical memorandum (attached) that identifies heritage attributes and Character-Defining Elements for the Bridge, assesses impacts from a heritage conservation perspective, and identifies how the changes affect the heritage integrity of the Bridge. The technical memorandum includes recommendations for additional heritage conservation measures. This letter is a summary of findings and recommendations.

The entire Bridge is a cultural heritage resource and historic components of the Bridge including each truss, cross braces, the stringers and floor beams, concrete abutments, and concrete deck are heritage attributes. The Bridge is also a landmark and symbol tied to local history. It contributes to the picturesque setting of the area.

Based on municipal cultural heritage, sustainability and complete community goals, objectives and policies; it is understood that conservation of cultural heritage resources is a priority for the municipality.

LHC reviewed the *Mossington Bridge Modifications* report prepared by Doug Dixon & Associates Inc. The report reviewed four options for modifications to the Bridge against a number of variables including heritage impacts.

LHC finds that the *Mossington Bridge Modifications* report has considered the cultural heritage value of the Bridge and integrated it into the proposed modifications. The preferred localized

steel plate modification is generally compliant with heritage conservation guidance from the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* and the *Eight guiding principles for the conservation of built heritage properties*.

Removal of the lattice railing is an adverse change to the Bridge but is understood to be necessary for safety and security. The proposed steel plates and the method of attaching them to the Bridge is a minimal intervention. The proposed railing will be a slight change the overall appearance of the Bridge but is a clearly modern intervention and can be removed. The change in appearance from the tall railing will likely have a small adverse effect on the Bridge as part of the picturesque landscape by altering its heritage integrity. The feeling associated with the Bridge as a historic place and appreciation of the historic structure may be reduced with this modern intervention. However, since this change is necessary for safety and security and is reversible it is consistent with heritage conservation guidance.

In LHC's professional opinion the proposed Bridge modifications are generally consistent with good heritage conservation practices. Based on review of the *Mossington Bridge Modifications* report and design drawings for the modifications, the heritage value of the Bridge has been considered and integrated into the modifications.

LHC makes the following recommendations to assist in conservation of the Bridge:

- The Town should compile and maintain an archival file documenting the Bridge. Documentation should include:
 - Current condition/as built drawings of the Bridge;
 - Current photographs of the Bridge as a whole and of detailed elements;
 - Reports prepared about the Bridge including any reports prepared for heritage assessments, condition assessments or for proposed changes;
 - Construction drawings of the proposed modifications; and,
 - Photographs of the Bridge following the changes.
- If possible—remove the historic lattice railing intact and store it for possible restoration in the future. Alternatively, send the railing or a sample of it to a local museum as a representative piece of the Bridge along with a documentary record of the Bridge and its history.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Holthof, MPI, MMA, RPP, MCIP, CAHP
Senior Heritage Planner
LHC Heritage Planning & Archaeology Inc.

Attachments: Memorandum, Cultural Heritage Impact Opinion Memorandum, Mossington Bridge, Hedge Road, Town of Georgina, On.