

March 20, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TOWN OF GANANOQUE SUCCESSFUL IN ITS APPLICATION  
FOR \$1.4M TO REPLACE THE HUDSON BRIDGE**

**Gananoque, ON:** The Town of Gananoque is pleased to learn that its application to the 2017 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Top-Up Fund for \$1,404,531 for the replacement of the Hudson Bridge was approved. The Province created the Fund to provide stable funding to help small communities address critical core infrastructure needs in relation to roads, bridges, water and wastewater, to further strengthen municipal asset management practices, and help small communities by providing long-term support for rehabilitation and repair of core infrastructure.

“Our government is committed to improving roads, bridges and water infrastructure in rural Ontario. This important investment in the Hudson Bridge will not only help to improve the Town of Gananoque’s accessibility, but will boost local economic development, tourism and create jobs.” - Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Hudson Bridge is one of three vehicular crossings of the Gananoque River within the Town. The Bridge is located at Machar Street and was constructed in 1911 as a single lane bridge. After recent inspections, the Bridge was flagged for upcoming replacement by 2020 due to severe corrosion and rust perforation of its primary structural elements. It is currently under load restriction and needs to be replaced.

Council planning for the replacement of the Hudson Bridge had already begun with the commencement of a heritage assessment. This assessment will be integrated into the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. To date, the heritage assessment work has characterized the bridge as having historical potential given its age and structure type. Heritage aspects of the existing bridge will be recognized through the Class EA options analysis in order to commemorate the bridge's significance. Class EA work will include cultural and natural heritage assessments where necessary.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,610,000 plus HST. The approved funding of \$1,404,531 represents 90% of the project cost. The remaining 10% can be funded from the Town’s formula based OCIF funding. The project must be completed by December 31, 2019.

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