

MAPLE HILL BRIDGE

V6-17

The first bridge at Maple Hill was constructed of wood, around 1852 or 1854. The bridge was needed so the farmers from the South Line could deliver grain to the mill, on the north side of the Saugeen River.

In 1888 the people on the Durham Road and nearby concessions petitioned the Township Council to take over the road known as the Maple Hill Road. The council decided not to accept responsibility for the road or the bridge, but did agree to grant money towards recovering the bridge in 1889. The bridge needed 2,500 board feet of rock elm costing \$25.50. The township also paid \$2.70 for 60 spikes. Having granted the money, there was some concern that the township could be held liable for future repairs for the bridge. The township solicitors advised the council not to contribute further funds towards the up keep of the bridge unless they wished to take over the road.

On October 8, 1896 the petition of W.H. Goodeve and 224 others was submitted to council asking a grant of \$400 to assist them in the building of a new bridge at Maple Hill. The petition stated that the township would not be held responsible for further maintenance. The bridge was constructed by Mr. D. Knechtel. Another petition was brought before the council in February 1898 asking for the take over of the Maple Hill Road and bridge. Shortly afterwards the township assumed responsibility for the road as township property.

During the high water in the spring of 1912, the bridge was taken out. The McRitchie's fearing the bridge would be carried away, tied a cable to the bridge and secured the other