

V6-21

# Maple Hill bridge will be replaced

By DIANNE DRYSDALE

Because of the ever-increasing stress of today's traffic the Maple Hill Bridge, the third to span the Saugeen at that point, is to be replaced this summer.

Brant Township Council received six bids for construction of the new bridge and Owen King Construction Ltd. of Walkerton has the contract, having tendered the lowest bid at \$288,788.

Gansby and Mannerow of Owen Sound are the consulting engineers.

Construction of the three-span bridge will begin after high-water time, probably in mid to late May, and it is scheduled for completion by November 24. The new bridge will consist of two 70 foot spans and a central 90 foot span. It will be supported by piers in the water.

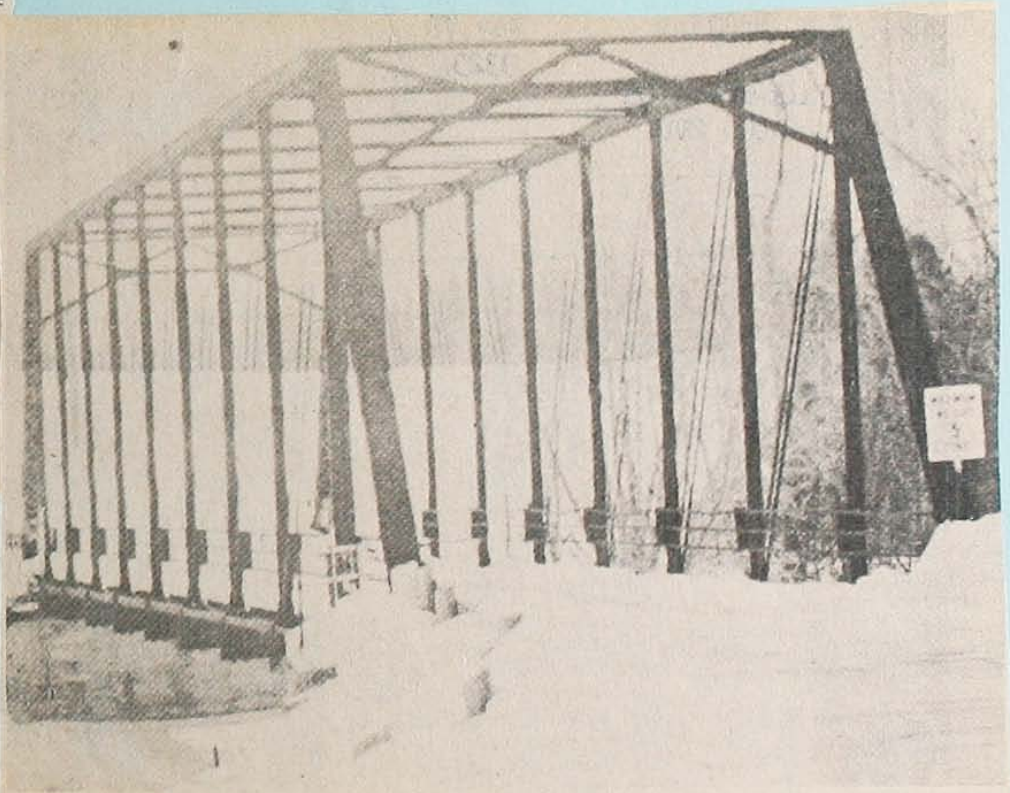
If you drive over the Maple Hill bridge these days, it is hard to believe that so much history has taken place in that area. Before the 1900's the village of Maple Hill was a thriving community with two stores, a hotel, a blacksmith's shop, a sawmill and a gristmill. Three waterwheels once provided a source of power for nearby communities.

Before the first bridge was installed, people from the south had no direct access to the mill on the north side of the river. Murray Crispin, whose grandfather was the first settler on

the South Line, recalls the fire which destroyed the mill in the late forties. He also recalls the installation of the present Maple Hill bridge, which once spanned the Saugeen in the town of Chesley. When the bridge arrived it was too short and adjustments had to be made.

Ralph Metcalfe, who has lived beside the bridge for 70 years recalls the spring of 1929, when the Saugeen rose to road level and his father and neighbours packed the area with sod and planks to avoid flooding.

Residents to the south of the bridge will find it rather inconvenient when construction begins on the new bridge. They will have to go either to Walkerton or to Hanover to cross the Saugeen this summer.



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