

MEMORANDUM

To: Rawlson King (Chair, City of Ottawa BHSC) C. Quinn, R. Brocklington, G.Gower, C. McKenney, S. Moffat, A.Conforti, J. Halsall (BHSC Members)

CC: Councillor Mathieu Fleury, Mayor Jim Watson, Stephen Willis (General Manager, Planning Infrastructure and Economic Development) Lesley Collins (Program Manager, Heritage Planning), David Flemming, David Jeanes, Leslie Maitland (Heritage Ottawa), John Dance (Old Ottawa East Community Association) Heather Amys (President Overbrook Community Association) Susan Khazaeli (President, Action Sandy Hill)

From: Barry Padolsky (BHSC member)

Date: May 12, 2022

Re: Proposed Demolition of Historic Rideau River CPR Bridge, Ottawa



CPR (M&O Railroad) bridge across Rideau River in Ottawa, inaugurated July 17, 1898; currently serving as a pedestrian / bicycle bridge. (Photo: September 25, 1956 Paterson George Collection)

It has come to my attention that the City of Ottawa is planning to demolish and replace the historic CPR Railway Bridge across the Rideau River immediately south of the Queensway. This bridge was constructed in 1898 and is the last survivor of the four historic bridges that spanned the Rideau at this strategic location.

This memo is to urge that the BHSC request that:

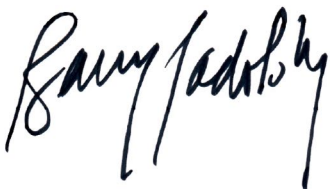
1. The city heritage staff undertake an assessment of the heritage value of this 8 span half deck plate girder bridge with the objective of designating the structure under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a step towards preserving and rehabilitating this historic landmark.

2. The General Manager Planning Infrastructure and Economic Development initiate a peer review of the "Detailed Condition Assessment and Renewal Options Analysis report was completed by Parsons in November 2018, which recommended that the existing structure be replaced on a new alignment upstream of the existing bridge". The objective of this review would be evaluate the feasibility, relative costs and benefits of preserving and rehabilitating this historic landmark.

I will bring this request to the next meeting of the BHSC on June 20, 2022.

I am attaching the City Staff Report date February 22, 2022 that provides a status report on the proposed replacement of the "Old Railway Rideau River Ped Bridge SN018600". It is of note that since the bridge has not yet been designated under Part IV of the Heritage Act the report give no consideration to a preserving and rehabilitating this historic landmark..

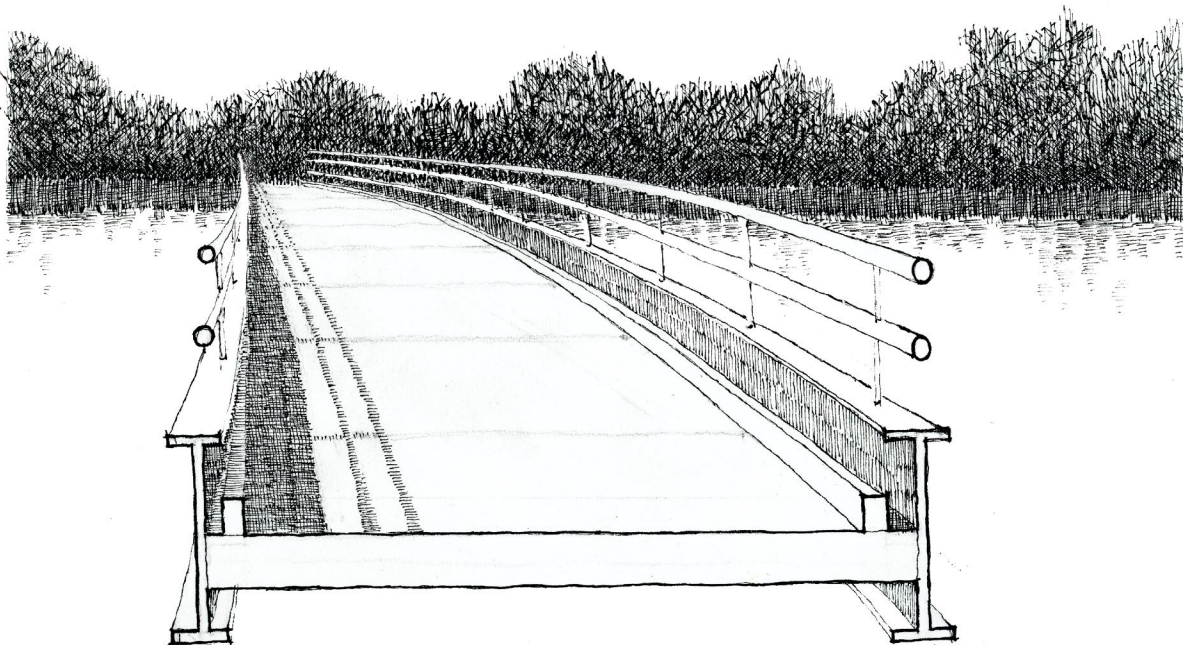
Respectfully submitted



Barry Padolsky B. Arch., M. Sc. (Urban Design), OAA, FRAIC, CAHP, RCA



Airphoto 1928 showing the four historic bridges over the Rideau River at the “Hurdman” crossing [from north to south: Canadian Northern Railway Bridge-1909 (demolished), Hurdman Brothers Road Bridge pre-1879 (demolished), CPR Railway Bridge 1898 (existing), Canadian Atlantic Railway Bridge, 1882 (demolished)]



Sketch of CPR Railway Bridge from essay “What’s In a Curve?” by Barry Padolsky published in the Ottawa Citizen May 4, 2020