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THE EXPOSITOR

## \$3.5 million span could lure tourists

### City approves bridge carrying sewer and water pipelines to northwest

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After years of failed attempts and frustration, the city will spend \$3.5 million to build a pedestrian bridge that will carry sewer and water pipelines to the Northwest industrial park.

A steel truss bridge will be erected across the Grand River just west of the Brant Park Conservation Area, ending in the north 500 metres from the planned Trans-Canada trail.

The upper deck would have a walkway for pedestrians, cyclists and skiers. A watermain and two sewer pipelines would be stationed on a lower level. An enclosed containment pan would ensure that any leaks don't enter the river below.

#### DEVELOP NORTHWEST

"It could enhance our tourism and develop the northwest," Coun. Mike Hancock said of the bridge during city council debate Monday evening.

"It's unfortunate that the first two options didn't work out but it's important that we proceed," said Coun. Vince Bucci.

City councillors endorsed the project a week after agreeing to pay a construction company the last installment of \$2.2 million for its failed efforts to pass a pipeline in the bedrock beneath the river. Kast Construction had to abandon its drilling efforts because the bedrock was too hard.

Unless the city encounters new roadblocks, construction of the bridge will take around five months and be com-

plete by fall of 1999. Public open houses would first be conducted for an amended environmental assessment process.

Preliminary designs show two options for the bridge — a smaller structure with more supporting posts or a larger bridge with more widely-spaced supports. The cost difference is \$500,000.

Neither option appears to have a different impact on the river, city engineer Alf Gretzinger told councillors, adding that land conditions shouldn't pose any problems.

The city considered placing the bridge away from a native-owned island in the middle of the river, but rejected the idea because it would cost more to place the pipeline's northern connections on stilts until it connects with TCG Materials Ltd. on Hardy Road, Gretzinger said.

The bridge will be designed to withstand floods and ice jams, he added.

#### FILL CHANNEL

Construction will require the river's north channel to be temporarily filled at the bridge's crossing to place the supports and steel spans. A landscape architect will be used to replace any natural vegetation disturbed during the process.

Only Coun. Marguerite Ceschi-Smith opposed the bridge. Citing high costs to develop the industrial park, the Ward 5 councillor urged a peer review of the project.

"Development at any cost, I don't think so," she said, repeating previous objections.

The city now projects a \$4.2 million



Middle Island Looking Downstream

**This sketch shows a steel truss bridge planned to carry water and sewer pipelines to the Northwest industrial park. It will replace a failed crossing under the riverbed.**

shortfall from developing the industrial park. That represents \$13,000 per acre on the \$84,500 cost per acre.

The magnitude of the loss will depend on the sale prices for land. General industrial land is expected to sell for about \$32,000 per acre while prestige land adjacent to Highway 403 will sell for about \$40,000 per acre.

Funds could be reaped by applying development fee surcharges to properties serviced by the pipeline. Council is in the process of reviewing its development charges policy.

The city has spent \$16.7 million on the northwest industrial park so far. Nearly \$30 million will be required to complete the 779-acre industrial site, of which the city owns 315 acres. The province contributed \$13.8 million.

Revenues from the park are projected at \$28.6 million: \$10.1 million from land sales and \$18.5 million in development charges.

Six Nations elected band council, which had agreed to the earlier drilling proposal, is expected to respond to the bridge proposal within a month.