

Water Street Swing Bridge Policy

Authority	Manager of Public Works		
Establishing By-law No.	2021-082	Amending By-law	N/A

1. PURPOSE

To establish a Policy for the operation of the Water Street Swing Bridge.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to the Water Street Swing Bridge as owned and operated by the Corporation of the Town of Gananoque.

3. AUTHORITY

The Manager of Public Works is responsible for the administration and implementation of this Policy.

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Water Street Swing Bridge is estimated to have a construction date of 1893. It is a rare example of an early central pivoting bridge in Canada. The bridge sits on a stone pier and stone abutments. The bridge functions as a one-lane bridge with a sidewalk within the girder lines as well and spans the most southerly limit of the Gananoque River, where it flows into the St. Lawrence River, connecting Water Street.

The Bridge holds a Municipal Heritage Designation under By-law No. 2014-076 as amended under By-law No. 2021-048 as having architectural and historical value.

5. POLICY

5.1. The Town of Gananoque's main interests in the Water Street Swing Bridge is to respect the historical significance of the bridge and to maintain vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Water Street.

5.2. To that end, it is the Policy of the Town of Gananoque that the Water Street Swing Bridge will generally remain mainly closed to boater traffic, however may be swung on a limited basis under the following circumstances:

5.2.1. By appointment only and only during the regular business hours of the Public Works Department (7:00am to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday excluding weekends and statutory holidays).

5.2.2. The Bridge will not generally be swung during the winter months (November to April)

5.2.3. Unless under emergency situations, five (5) business days written notice to the Manager of Public Works is required.

- 5.2.4. Main consideration will be given to those requiring access to the Gananoque River for construction purposes. Recreational purposes will need to demonstrate an identified need.
- 5.2.5. The Manager of Public Works may at any time, due to available resources, operational priorities, mechanical concerns, etc., deny requests or specify terms and conditions regarding the swinging of the bridge.
- 5.2.6. The Manager of Public Works may permit swinging of the bridge on a case-by-case basis due to unusual circumstances where he/she determines appropriate/necessary.
- 5.2.7. Fees charged will be as per the Town's General Fees and Rates By-law, as amended.