

April 3, 2024

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria,
Minister of Transportation Ontario,
777 Bay St., 5th Floor,
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Sarkaria:

Re; Bridge Closure on Durham Region Road 15

Last November 2023 the Province of Ontario ordered the closure of the bridge on Durham Regional Road 15 (Simcoe Street), Beaverton, Township of Brock. The bridge is located adjacent to and west of Provincial Highway 12. It remains closed to this day. No announced plan or timelines for repair or replacement **have been communicated to residents. It is imperative that the Province be transparent with the status and action plans and timelines for the people of the Township of Brock.**

It is our understanding that the bridge has been maintained, until recent times, by The Region of Durham. The bridge was closed by the Region in the latter part of 2020 for approximately three months for repairs and reopened early in 2021. Further, the Region is scheduled to repair or replace the bridge in 2025. We have now learned that the Province re-established ownership, inspected, and decided to close the bridge. It remains closed to this date.

This letter is to express **our very serious concerns created with this sudden closure.** We wish to draw to your attention that the bridge and road are the main entrances to the small town of Beaverton. The result has been adverse changes in shopping patterns. There was a noticeable decrease in store patronage during the holiday shopping season that continues to this day. Those who visited the town for daily shopping needs are now finding alternatives. The changes are likely to be permanent if the bridge is not opened before the cottage owners and tourists arrive on Victoria Day Weekend. We fear that some local business owners will be forced into closure.

Please also be aware, that EMS, Fire, and Police are located in the village of Beaverton and no longer have direct access to emergency calls on Highway 12 and east. The delayed response time places people's lives in increased danger and causes unnecessary property damage.

Box 29, 397 Simcoe Street
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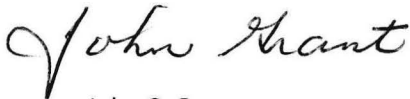
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In the last few days, we have learned of other bridge repairs on Highway 12, a few kilometers north of Durham Road 15. Please be aware that the area already has high vehicle accident calls during cottage and summer holiday seasons. That there are already weekly emergency calls. The bridge closure and any other bridge repairs will result in even higher volumes of accidents and place people at risk.

On behalf of all residents, visitors, and business owners, please provide an immediate public response on the course of action and timelines for a bridge opening. **Please confirm that funds are currently allocated to repair/replace this critical infrastructure for Beaverton and The Township of Brock.**

Yours truly,



John C. Grant
President,
Brock Board of Trade

Cc:

Doug Ford, Premier Province of Ontario
Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Chair John Henry and Council, Region of Durham
Mayor Walter Schummer and Council, Township of Brock
Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Durham Business Alliance

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