

WALTERDALE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

PROJECT UPDATE

(March 2014)

After nearly 100 years, the Walterdale Bridge has reached the end of its service life. A \$155 million replacement project is under construction, with the new bridge expected to open in late 2015. The current bridge will be removed in 2016.

CONSTRUCTION

Thrust block construction has begun in all four cofferdams on both sides of the river. The thrust blocks will serve as the foundation of the bridge and will anchor the arches that carry the bridge load.

Thrust blocks are built in stages with layers of concrete being poured prior to the installation of micro pilings. Each thrust block will be approximately 600 cubic metres in volume.

Once completed, this essential work will be hidden 20 m underneath the ground and future roadway alignment.

Work on the north bridge abutment is also underway.



Northwest thrust block



North abutment

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological work was completed in December, as the excavation within the cofferdams reached a depth past the archaeological record. Work at the current depth is being overseen by a paleontologist.

Archaeological oversight for bridge construction began in January 2013. This included on-site work by an archaeologist and Aboriginal monitors. Work overseen by on-site monitors included: early in-stream work along the riverbanks from January to March; and soil sorting and excavation on the north side from July to December. Items recovered during soil sorting included industrial debris, animal bones, and shards of glass and pottery.

Over the course of excavation, the entire north bridge abutment area was found to have been disturbed to a depth of over 6 m.

As of February 2014, no human remains or grave features have been found during project-related excavation.



Bison skull uncovered on the south side during piling work in August 2013. It was donated to the Royal Alberta Museum.

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

2013	<p><u>Completed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Majority of tree clearing.</i> • <i>Access roads and in-river berms.</i> • <i>Park trails rerouted.</i> • <i>Interpretive belvedere removed.</i> • <i>Utilities relocated and drainage system updated.</i> • <i>Realignment of Queen Elizabeth Park Road.</i> • <i>Installation of pilings and construction of cofferdams needed for thrust blocks.</i>
2014	<p><u>Ongoing/Upcoming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Move interpretive belvedere panels to temporary location.</i> • <i>Construct thrust blocks.</i> • <i>Construct and erect bridge arches.</i> • <i>Realign Walterdale Hill Road.</i> • <i>Construct new access roads for Kinsmen Sports Centre.</i> • <i>Construct new south side trails.</i>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Construct bridge deck.</i> • <i>Connect roads to new bridge alignment.</i> • <i>New bridge open to traffic.</i>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Landscaping/trail connections.</i> • <i>Demolition of old bridge.</i>