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## For immediate release

December 11, 2015

### Hastings Swing Bridge – Information Update

Parks Canada has announced the Hastings Swing Bridge will close January 4<sup>th</sup> to mid May 2016 in order to replace the bridge. In preparation for the closure the Municipality of Trent Hills has put plans in place to ensure no disruption or change in Municipal service delivery and to mitigate the impact the of the closure on residents:

- Municipal Fire and Public Works will be stationed on both sides of the bridge. Mutual aid agreements have been made with neighbouring municipalities to assist with snow removal, winter road maintenance and fire services.
- Parking lots will be available on both sides of the bridge for those who wish to park and utilize the pedestrian bridge; existing parking lots at Pond Street and Dit Clapper Drive have been expanded. The parking lots will have lighting and night patrols for added security.

Community based support will be offered by the Hastings Helpers ([www.hastingshelpers.com](http://www.hastingshelpers.com)). This volunteer group will be available to assist residents who need help with getting to appointments, completing errands and other issues connected to the closure. Please contact Tonya McColl at 705-957-7869 or by email [smithtonya82@yahoo.ca](mailto:smithtonya82@yahoo.ca) for more details.

A wheelchair accessible pedestrian walkway will be located on the east side of the swing bridge site. The pedestrian walkway will be in place prior to the closure. Parks Canada will be providing updates and project progress online ([www.pc.gc.ca/tswHastings](http://www.pc.gc.ca/tswHastings)).

Students who are bused to school will have their pick up and drop off times adjusted to accommodate the extra time required to travel the detour. Details will be provided by STSCO. Students who walk to school will see no change; Hastings Helpers volunteers will be in place for the first week of school as students transition to using the pedestrian walkway.

Detours around the closure will direct traffic to use Hwy 30 or 45 to County Road 42 in order to use the bridge at Trent River.

The Trent Hills & District Chamber of Commerce will be working with business owners to utilize social media to promote businesses impacted by the closure. Executive Director Nancy Allanson says, “we will be offering one-on-one coaching to businesses interested in establishing or enhancing their on line presence. We also support the endeavors of each of the three community business associations/organizations and would be more than happy to assist with the promotion of events or activities that will support the businesses that are affected by this closure.”

Any further developments will be posted at [www.trenthills.ca](http://www.trenthills.ca)

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*For more information please contact:*

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