

Borden Bridge work begins

The first phase of construction for a new Borden Bridge will begin immediately, now that tender for the earthwork has been awarded.

Nemanishen Contracting Ltd. of Langham will construct the abutment fills and conduct the preliminary grading of approaches. The company's bid of \$979,525 was the lowest of 10 received on the earthwork portion of the Borden Bridge project. When all related earthwork is completed by July 15, 1985, costs are projected to hit the \$1.175 million mark.

When the entire bridge project, including a new bridge itself, is complete in the fall of 1985, costs are expected to near the \$8.2 million mark.

The earthwork calls for moving of 192,000 cubic metres of excavation from the east side of the river to the west embankment. To accomplish this, Nemanishen plans to build an ice bridge across the North Saskatchewan River. Approximately 100,000 cubic metres of earth must be hauled to the west side by March 31 of 1984, with the remaining 92,000 cubic metres to be transported to the west side by March 31, 1985. The majority of earthwork on the east side is to be completed by Nov. 15 of this year.

Highways Minister Jim Garner, who announced awarding of the tender along with

Redberry MLA John Gerich, insists "the impact of the new Borden Bridge will be felt right across Canada" as it will be "a significant improvement" in our provincial highway system. The Yellowhead Route, Highway 16, on which the bridge is located, is considered a major Canadian highway serving the four Western provinces' tourist and transportation needs.

From a regional point of view, the new bridge will provide northwest Saskatchewan with a safe, modern and efficient structure which will clearly enhance the economic attractiveness of the area, added

Mr. Gerich.

Development of a new Borden bridge has been greeted with great enthusiasm and relief by the Yellowhead Highway Association and by the motoring public. The bridge has frequently been referred to as the greatest bottleneck and most dangerous spot on the Yellowhead and over the years has been the scene of numerous traffic accidents, including fatal crashes.

Pressure has been on for the past several years to do something about the bridge structure which was built as a make work project during the depression and opened in 1937.

Work on the roadway approaches started in September of 1983 and construction of the 300 metre bridge began in June of 1984. Upon completion of the substructure, the steel girder support structure was erected in February of 1985. Construction of the cast-in-place concrete bridge surface began in May of 1985. The bridge was paved in mid-September and officially opened on September 29, 1985.



Aerial photograph of Borden Bridge, deck construction, mid-summer 1985.

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