

# ROMA CONFERENCE 2025

Delegation  
Ministry of Infrastructure  
January 19, 2025



MUNICIPALITY OF  
**West Grey**  
[westgrey.com/conferences](https://westgrey.com/conferences)



# Welcome to West Grey

With a population of over 13,500 the Municipality of West Grey is the largest geographic municipality in Grey County (876 square kilometres), with the River Styx and Rocky Saugeen, Beatty Saugeen and South Saugeen Rivers being the connecting links between our rural communities of Elmwood, Durham, Neustadt and Ayton.

West Grey delivers key services to support our fast-growing population, including 114 bridges and culverts with a span of three metres or more, most of which are at least 75+ years old. These structures were built and designed for very different uses than what we see today. Traffic patterns have changed, and farm equipment has certainly changed, all of which are having significant impact on the life and condition of our bridges. At best, if built new and to today's standards, bridges have a lifespan of approximately 100 years.

The rivers that serve as the connecting link across our region are causing critical and urgent implications for the Municipality. Currently 15% of our 114 bridges are closed or recommended for closure in the immediate future (OSIM 2024). Based on our recent West Grey Bridge Prioritization Study, 10 other bridges have been identified as high risk and will need an immediate estimated investment of \$19.5 million.

The Municipality of West Grey simply does not have the financial resources to make this level of investment in urgent or longer-term replacement of these bridges/structures that provide the connectivity through Grey County. To illustrate this point, \$140,000 of investment by the Municipality is equivalent to a 1% increase on the municipal tax levy.

On behalf of our Council, our businesses, farmers and residents, the Municipality of West Grey is seeking financial investment from the Province of Ontario to ensure the connectivity across the region in support of emergency access for residents, connectivity to markets for our farmers who feed cities, and the financial viability of our business community who rely on these roads and bridges to access markets.

**Mayor Kevin Eccles**



## Closing bridges impacts residents and businesses



Emergency response times

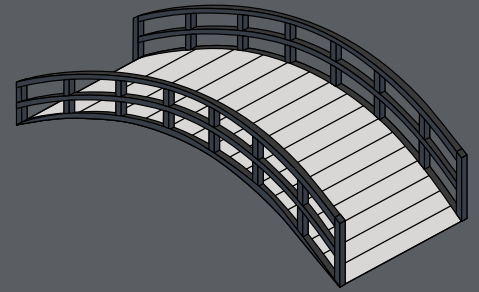
Local access/inconvenience

Increased costs for business operations

Negative impact on food and agricultural production

# 114

bridges and culverts



# 15%

of bridges closed or identified for closures



8 bridges currently closed

9 bridges identified for long-term closure

## 10 bridges identified as highest risk based on 2024 OSIM ratings



Estimated cost for repair/replacement: \$19,639,000



# Requested support from the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure

Financial investment in bridge infrastructure in West Grey to ensure the connectivity across the region in support of:

- emergency access for residents;
- connectivity to markets for our farmers who feed cities;
- the financial viability of our business community who rely on these roads and bridges to access markets.



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