

Public works manager resigns

JACOB ROBINSON
SIMCOE REFORMER

Lee Robinson has resigned as the manager of public works for Norfolk County.

An email sent to Robinson's county email address Monday morning confirmed the news with an automatic reply reading: "Thank you for your message.



Robinson

I regret to inform you that I have resigned from Norfolk County."

Chris Baird, Norfolk's general manager of development and culture service, will take Robinson's position for the near future.

In an online message to The Reformer, Robinson said she officially stepped aside July 11.

"The job was no longer working for my family," she said. "It was a very hard decision to make but ultimately I think I made the best decision for my family. I was scheduled to be on vacation for two weeks so it was decided that it was better to just make a clean break."

Robinson was selected to replace longtime public works manager Eric D'Hondt following his retirement in 2015. Prior to that, Robinson was a public works manager in Brant County.

"During her time with Norfolk County Ms. Robinson was a dedicated civil servant, whose professional highlights included successfully leading the public works division through many significant endeavours, including but not limited to a restructuring of the division, a reduction in the value and volume of outstanding construction/remediation projects, an increase in contract efficiency that saved millions of dollars and, most recently, providing leadership during the Long Point and Port Hope area."

Point Causeway Bridge incident," Norfolk CAO David Cribbs said via email.

Back in May, engineers deemed a bridge in Long Point – one that sits near George Lane and above the waterway that connects Big Creek Marsh with Long Point Bay – to have a failing horizontal crossbeam due to severe deterioration throughout the winter. On May 15, the county was forced to reduce the traffic to one lane, lower the speed limit on the bridge, erect temporary traffic lights and impose an 11-ton weight restriction. This caused a serious inconvenience to not only residents but business and cottage owners as traffic bottlenecked and larger trucks were prohibited.

The installation of a "rig mat" over the defective structure in June allowed traffic to flow freely once again.

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Staff 'worked so hard'

ROBINSON from A1

"I know there has been a lot of frustration, a lot of challenges for residents in that area but I do want to say on behalf of council, thank you to everyone that has worked with you," Mayor Charlie Luke

told Robinson at a recent council meeting.

"It's been quite an effort I think we're very fortunate staff has worked so hard to make as much of a terrible thing into something somewhat bearable."