

# Temporary fix approved

## Long Point bridge support will cost \$300G

A temporary solution for the failing bridge on the Long Point Causeway has been found.

By the end of June, Norfolk County hopes to fit the bridge near George Lane with a custom steel structure that will take over the speed- and load-bearing function of the old bridge.

The old bridge rests on old wooden piers in a watercourse that joins the Big Creek Marsh with Long Point Bay. The steel structure will rest on solid ground on the paved portion of the Long Point Causeway.

Norfolk public works shared word of the repair with Mayor Charlie Luke late last week. Luke touched base with councillors Friday and said he would call an emergency council meeting for Monday if anyone wanted to debate the proposal.

Monday, Luke said council was unanimous in its desire to proceed with the repair. The name of the fabricator hasn't been shared with council but the \$300,000 price tag has.

"The good news is there is light at the end of the tunnel," Luke said. "At least there is a solution. I don't think we have any other choice."

Norfolk council learned May 15 that the wooden deck of the old bridge was falling apart. This is a serious problem because the 3.2-kilometre causeway is the only road access into Long Point.

The failing crossbeam has reduced traffic to a single lane. An 11-tonne weight restriction is also in effect.

The latter is a problem because fuel, water and septage trucks have been unable to get into the resort community. Some Long Point cottagers ended the Victoria Day holiday weekend with full holding tanks and empty cisterns.

Before the weight restriction went into effect, Port Rowan Fire & Rescue stationed three trucks in Long Point. The vehicles will remain on standby until the bridge is stabilized.

Luke said the temporary bridge will be a sturdy structure. It will allow traffic on the causeway to return to normal. Luke said the county will get a few years use out of the temporary structure before proceeding to a full replacement. [Msonnenberg@postmedia.com](mailto:Msonnenberg@postmedia.com)