



THE FARYON BRIDGE
RENEWING THE LANDMARK
THAT CARRIES US FORWARD

Case for Support



SOME PLACES ARE BUILT TO MOVE PEOPLE. THE FARYON BRIDGE WAS BUILT TO CONNECT THEM.

Every university has a place that quietly holds its soul. At Trent, that place is the Faryon Bridge.

For nearly six decades, it has stretched across the Otonabee River as the only on-campus link between east and west; a pedestrian bridge and conduit for services that allows the Trent community to live and learn as one.

Designed in concrete that echoes the bold forms that defined campus architect Ron Thom's style, the bridge's graceful arch commands the landscape – a timeless landmark at the heart of campus and a constant presence in the stories that unfold here.





The bridge lingers in the memories of the students who covered its deck with chalk when world events demanded a response. It is an iconic presence for the couples who stood in the centre and chose a life together. It holds the joy of graduates who gathered here to celebrate their achievements. It welcomes alumni home and serves as a beacon for rowers during Head of the Trent. It inspires conversations and the sparks of ideas that began in passing and stayed with people long after they reached the other side.

The Faryon Bridge is not simply part of Trent's geography. It is part of its memory and imagination. It carries the University's promise that learning is shaped by the connections between people and place.

“ My favourite Faryon Bridge memory has to be my last one. The day I graduated I could not help but pose under the iconic student highway at the Trent Symons Campus.”

Aaron Belanger '21
(Gzowski College)





The origins of an icon

The Faryon Bridge was completed in 1968 as one of the defining features of Trent's campus. Designed by celebrated architect Paul Merrick with the guidance of master architect Ron Thom and renowned structural engineer, Morden Yolles, the bridge brought to life the vision set out in Trent's early Master Plan that the Otonabee River would not divide the campus but run through its centre as a living part of the University.

Stretching 182 feet, the bridge was constructed in concrete that reflects Thom's architectural style and Yolles' commitment to integrating function and aesthetics. Its exposed aggregate surfaces and parabolic arch create a distinctive, enduring form. Anchored into the underlying bedrock, the Faryon Bridge is firmly tied to its setting while reinforcing the idea of connection at the heart of Trent's campus plan.

It carries the name of Reginald R. Faryon, a founding member of Trent University's Board of Governors and former president of the Quaker Oats Company of Canada. His advocacy for a local post-secondary educational institution helped shape Trent's formation and reflected his conviction that education is a vital investment in community. That same spirit of shared responsibility continues today, upheld by a community invested in Trent's purpose and promise.

Positioned at the centre of campus, the Faryon Bridge quickly became one of Trent's most recognizable landmarks. It appears in nearly every panoramic photograph of the University. It frames ceremonial moments and everyday crossings alike.

In 1971, it received a national Design of Merit citation for its harmony with the natural setting and its significance in modern Canadian architecture.

SAFEGUARDING THE HEART OF CAMPUS

But the Faryon Bridge is more than symbolic. It carries thousands of crossings each day. It enables students to reach classrooms and labs. It supports faculty whose research spans both sides of the river. It provides a path for visitors who come to experience one of Canada's most admired university landscapes. And critically, it also conveys the utilities that sustain campus operations and maintain critical pathways for emergency response.

The bridge now stands at a moment that will define its future.

After more than fifty years of service, the structure requires significant rehabilitation to remain safe, functional, and true to its original design. Engineering assessments have confirmed that renewal cannot wait if the bridge is to continue reliably serving the University and the wider community.

Trent University is committed to preserving the bridge's architectural form and historical significance, recognizing its importance to Canada's modern architectural heritage and the identity of the campus itself.

The work ahead is complex and will be carried out with exceptional care. The project will be coordinated to minimize disruption to river and road traffic while protecting the surrounding ecosystem. The Faryon Bridge will remain open for use during most phases of construction, with safety maintained for all who cross it. Load restrictions, carefully managed access, and clearly communicated temporary adjustments will allow daily movement to continue while work is underway.

The rehabilitation will extend over multiple construction seasons and includes renewing the deck and balustrades, restoring the beams and arches that support the structure, strengthening the piers and foundations, and preserving the architectural form that earned national recognition early in Trent's history. Environmental stewardship will guide all phases of the project to ensure the river and surrounding habitat remain protected.





“ We waited by the water for the Head of the Trent to begin, with the Faryon Bridge behind us and a quiet sense of anticipation in the air. Wearing our Trent gear and ready to cheer, it felt like the calm before the action as the riverbanks filled with spectators. Moments like this perfectly capture the spirit of Trent and the traditions that bring us back year after year!” – **Sierra Sumner '18** (Gzowski College)



A COMMITMENT TO THOSE WHO CROSS NEXT

The restoration of the Faryon Bridge represents a significant investment, with total project costs of up to \$25 million. Trent has committed substantial funding to this work and is seeking philanthropic partners to help raise up to \$10 million to restore this enduring symbol of connection at the heart of our campus. This investment will preserve a landmark that supports daily campus life, links generations of students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and secures a vital piece of Trent's architectural and cultural heritage for decades to come.

The project honours a place that shapes every student's experience and honours the visionaries who believed in Trent long before the University existed. Among them was Reginald R. Faryon, whose words in 1957 helped spark the movement that made Trent possible.



// Let us invest in something really big, [...] which will pay dividends for generations to come and benefit directly, or indirectly, every man, woman and child in Peterborough.” – Reginald R. Faryon





“ The Bridge was where John and I first met, and over the 50 years together, we often went back to celebrate the anniversary of our meeting on September 13, 1972. It is a wonderful vista to look across the water, and if you look carefully, you can see the future – we did. After John passed away I did a shadow box of memories. In it is the piece I gave John for Christmas 1972 – the medallion that says ‘meet you on the bridge’”

Dawn Berry-Merriam '72 (Champlain College)





Faryon's vision lives on in the bridge that rises across the Otonabee as a reminder that bold commitments shape the future.

The restoration of the Faryon Bridge carries this spirit forward. It will remain a place where connection thrives. A place where ideas are shared and take root. A place where the University's story is carried in the footsteps of those who cross it.



Together, we can turn possibility into something momentous.
Join the campaign today.

TRENTU.CA/MOMENTOUS

**TO DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN MAKE
A MOMENTOUS IMPACT, CONTACT:**

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