



This is the only known early (around 1880) photograph of the trestle. Note that the water level of the Uxbridge Brook is much higher than today - presumably dammed to provide water power for a downstream mill. Note: the train, authentic in every other respect, has been superimposed onto the bridge.



The Uxbridge railway trestle bridge was built in 1872 by the Toronto & Nipissing Railway, which had its head office in Uxbridge. It was the first narrow-gauge railway in Ontario, and was used largely for bringing wood and grain from the north, primarily for the Gooderham & Worts Distillery in Toronto. The bridge, which spans the Uxbridge Brook, was rebuilt in 1892 by the Grand Trunk Railway, and was used for freight and passenger traffic for many years. The last train passed over the bridge in 1980. It was used by hikers and cyclists, but fell into disrepair, and was closed in 2009. The restoration was undertaken in 2015 with major funding from the Trans Canada Trail and from community sources.



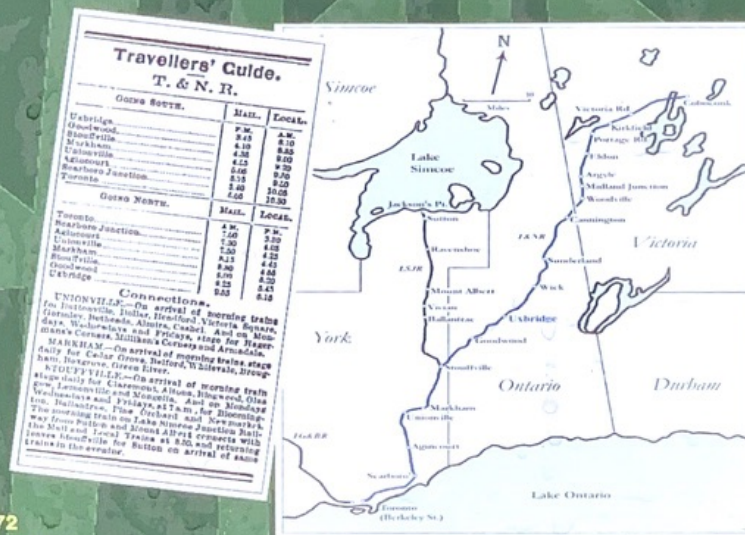
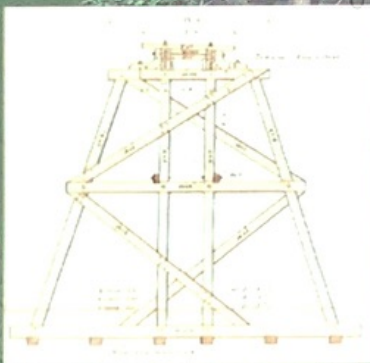
T&N.R. No. 6 'Uxbridge' Canadian Engine and Machinery Company, 1870



ABOVE: the "UXBRIDGE" steam engine, built in 1870 by the Canadian Engine and Machinery Company in Kingston. BELOW: after crossing the trestle, the railway line continued into downtown Uxbridge, to the "Witch's Hat" railway station, still in use by the York-Durham Heritage Railway for its tourist excursion trains. The Uxbridge station was built in 1904 by the Grand Trunk Railway - and is now used regularly as a movie location.



ABOVE: the eight large trestles, each with five supporting timbers, form a 38 metre span. They have survived since 1872 largely because they were soaked in creosote - a preservative now banned because of its toxicity. LEFT: an engineering diagram from the 1880s illustrating the construction design. It is similar to that of the Uxbridge trestle, except that there are five supports in each trestle, rather than the four seen here.



An early map, with the old county names, showing the route of the Toronto & Nipissing Railway, and a passenger timetable from March 1880.



THE RESTORED HISTORIC RAIL TRESTLE

TRAIL CAPITAL
UXBRIDGE
TOWNSHIP
OF CANADA

A PROJECT OF THE UXBRIDGE TRAIL PROGRAM

JOHN McCUTCHEON WAY

JOHN McCUTCHEON, A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF UXBRIDGE, WAS CHAIR OF THE TOWN TRAIL COMMITTEE FOR 14 YEARS. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHING THE TOWN TRAIL SYSTEM AND IN HAVING UXBRIDGE DECLARED THE TRAIL CAPITAL OF CANADA, AND HE SPEARHEADED THE PROGRAM TO RESTORE THE HISTORIC UXBRIDGE TRESTLE.