

Bascule (Jackknife) Bridge **106th Street**



Year Built: 1910-1913

Thunder Bay's unique jackknife bridge spans the Kaministiquia River, linking Mission Island with the City. It was constructed by the Canadian Pacific Railway between 1910 and 1913. The contractor for the project was Alexander Charles Stewart. The bridge originally had two decks, an upper one for personal and commercial vehicles and a lower deck for trains. Both the upper deck and the roadway connecting the bridge to Syndicate Avenue were dismantled in 2004 after the bridge was deemed hazardous to traffic. A new crossing, the Island Drive Bridge was constructed in 2002 for automobile traffic, although the Jackknife Bridge still operates as a rail passage.

The entire Jackknife Bridge was in danger of being demolished, but community outcry ensured the bridge would be maintained and protected. Fort William's 2005 *South Core Neighborhood Renewal Plan* suggested a recreational trail extend from Kaministiquia Heritage Park to the historic Jackknife Bridge so that the site may be better utilized.