

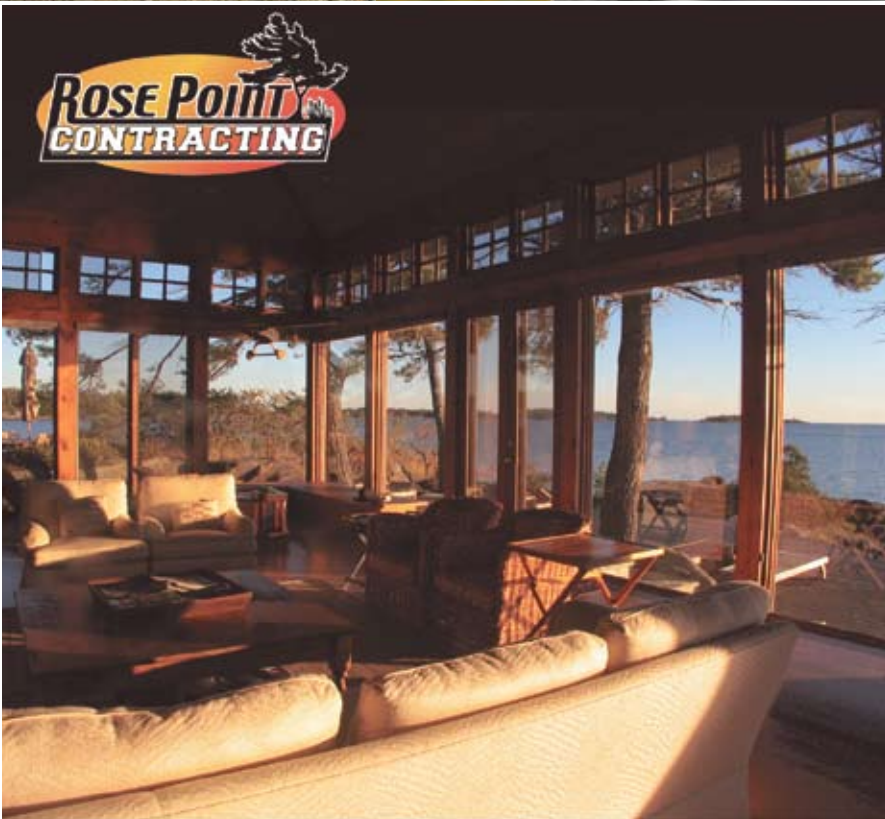


Cottagers and visitors to the Otter Lake area will be familiar with the graceful, slightly arched cement and steel Otter Lake bridge that has been around for many, many years. Unlike the McDougall bridge which is at the base of a hill, the Otter Lake bridge provides an airy view of the landscape above and below; a rolling landscape of field and trees that beckon the visitor to explore further.



in a riot of colour. This small but important passageway over the Seguin River continues to offer a popular setting for parking the car and watching the water flow tranquilly by. Standing suspended over the river, travellers are up in the air, but their feet are dry. They've left the shore, and are held in an in-between space that is neither here nor there! It's no wonder that bridges have been associated with magic!

Many bridges in cottage country started life as a plank bridge laid down by pioneers. Some were very crudely built and years later gave pause to anyone who actually had to cross them. An abandoned bridge on the old Nippissing Road bears witness to early bridge builders with its rough hewn planks and gaping holes. A large, "cross at your own risk" sign is prominently posted. Over time, bridges have been upgraded and replaced, but, as with all projects requiring engineering expertise, such construction projects tend to be expensive, so many of the sturdy old bridges remain in place.



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