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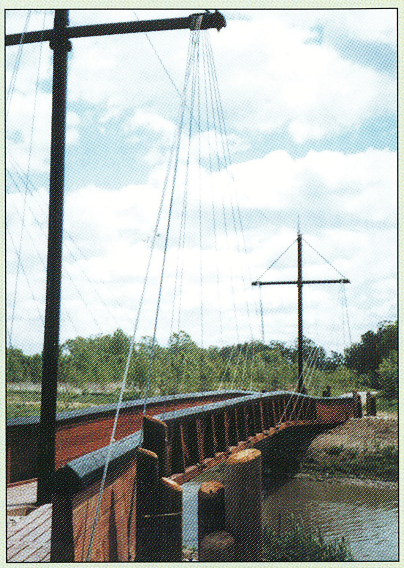
Bridge project sails on with help from volunteers

Pedestrians may wonder, do I sail away in it or cross it? It's the unique, cable-stayed bridge spanning Turkey Creek in LaSalle, a south-eastern Ontario community. Designed with two 32-foot masts anchored at either end, the bridge pays homage to both the shipping heritage of the town and the engineering profession which got its start in shipbuilding.

The pedestrian bridge is a pro bono project funded by volunteer time and corporate donations, spearheaded by engineer Norm Becker who started the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) pro bono program. "Our purpose in proposing this project was not only to involve high school, college and university students in the engineering of a landmark bridge, but to teach them the importance of building bridges with everyone on the engineering team," he says.

Along with students from St. Clair College in Windsor and the University of Windsor, more than 20 high school students worked on the bridge during National Engineering Week. Engineering firms provided donations while engineers and technologists were mentors for the students.



Bridge-building teaches teamwork

The main feature of the bridge is the two 32-foot masts capable of bearing 100,000 pounds, anchored at each end with about one kilometre of galvanized steel cable attached to them. Each mast is anchored in about 40,000 pounds of concrete. The cable-stayed design allowed students and volunteers to complete the bridge without heavy, mechanized equipment.

Other pro bono projects sponsored by the PEO include saving Amherstburg's Nazrey African Methodist Episcopal Church and the construction of the Krista McNorton pedestrian bridge in Tecumseh (see *The Ontario Technologist,* May/June issue).

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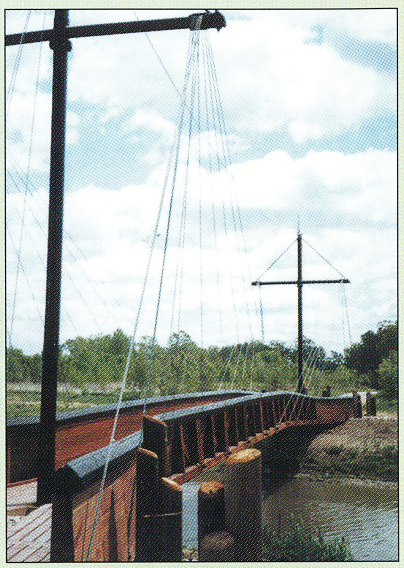

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