

Deepdale Trestle



View east of Broad Cove River from trestle at Red Banks



Deepdale Trestle photo by Darryl Taylor - Pathways

Inverness Trestle Mileage 54.1
The Old Trestle measured 111.6 meters (366 feet) in length; 4.3 meters (14 feet) in width; and 24.4 meters (80 feet) in height.

Mile 54.7

Contractor Donald Mann and crews completed this trestle by 1901 as part of a rail line from Port Hastings to Broad Cove. According to Allister W.D. MacBean's, "The Inverness and Richmond Railway," an average of 1000 men were employed between June and September in rail line construction. Although the specifications called for a steel superstructure, the initial trestle structure over the Broad Cove River was built of wood due to an inability of the suppliers to provide for a speedy delivery of the required material.

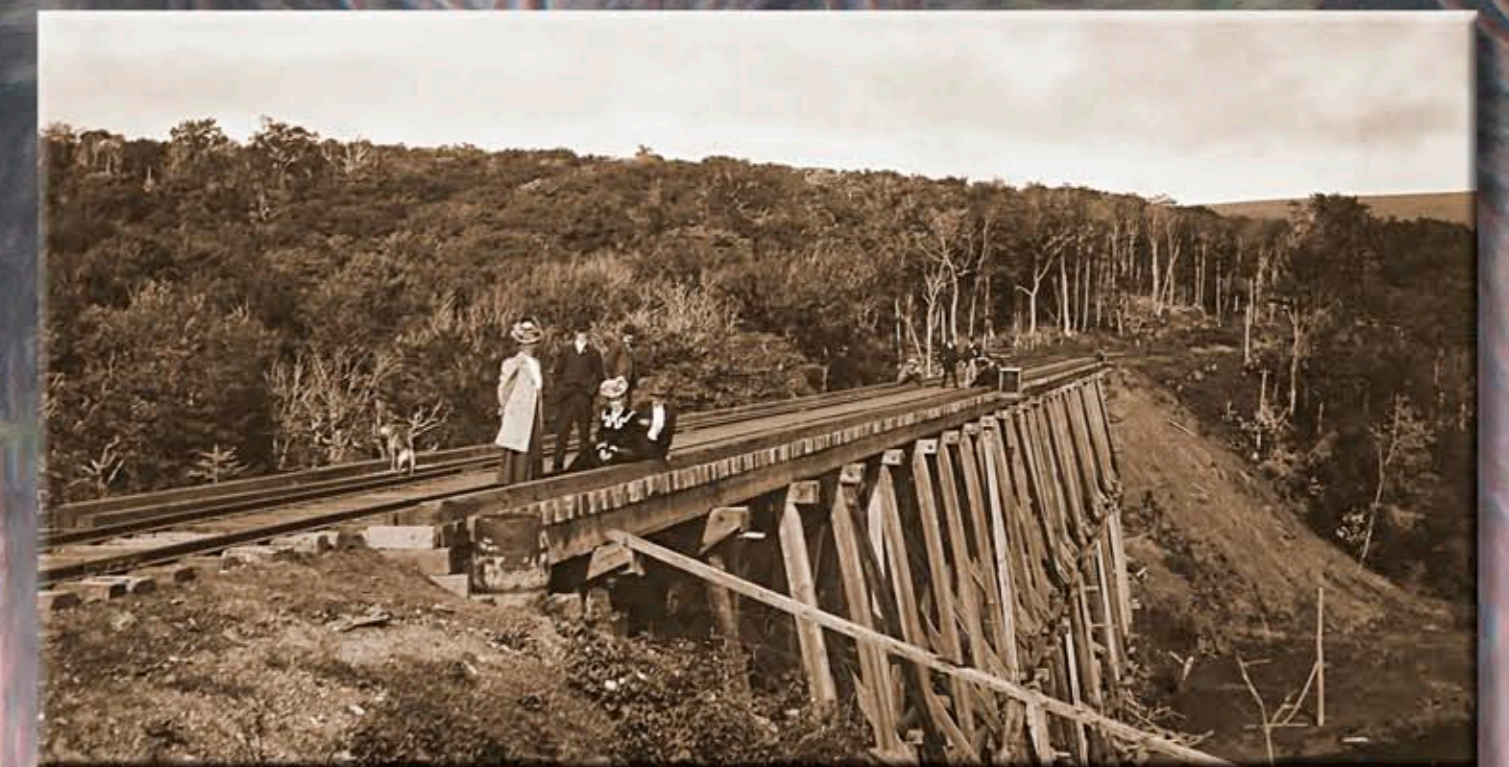
By constructing the concrete abutments and pier sub-structures the company demonstrated its intention to erect steel bridges as soon as the steel could be supplied by the manufacturer. The temporary structure remained in place until 1931-1932 when the new owners, Canadian National Railways (leased the line in 1924 and purchased it in 1929) upgraded the structure with masonry and steelwork. By 1975, Canadian National Railways made an application to abandon the line and a decision was made public on February 24, 1981.

On that day the Canadian Transport Commission stated: "... The railway must continue with the line from Port Hawkesbury to Inverness. Losses on the line have been dropping and traffic is expected to grow." Unfortunately losses continued and by July 31, 1986 the line was officially abandoned, followed by the removal of rails, and all signs of a once proud history. The building of this, and many other structures, is a testament to the specialized skills of the engineers and workers.

In recent years, community groups worked with the "Inverness County" Trans Canada Trail Project, and provided a new recreational use to the old railway line. This trestle upgrade was facilitated by the Inverness Development Association in partnership with all levels of government.



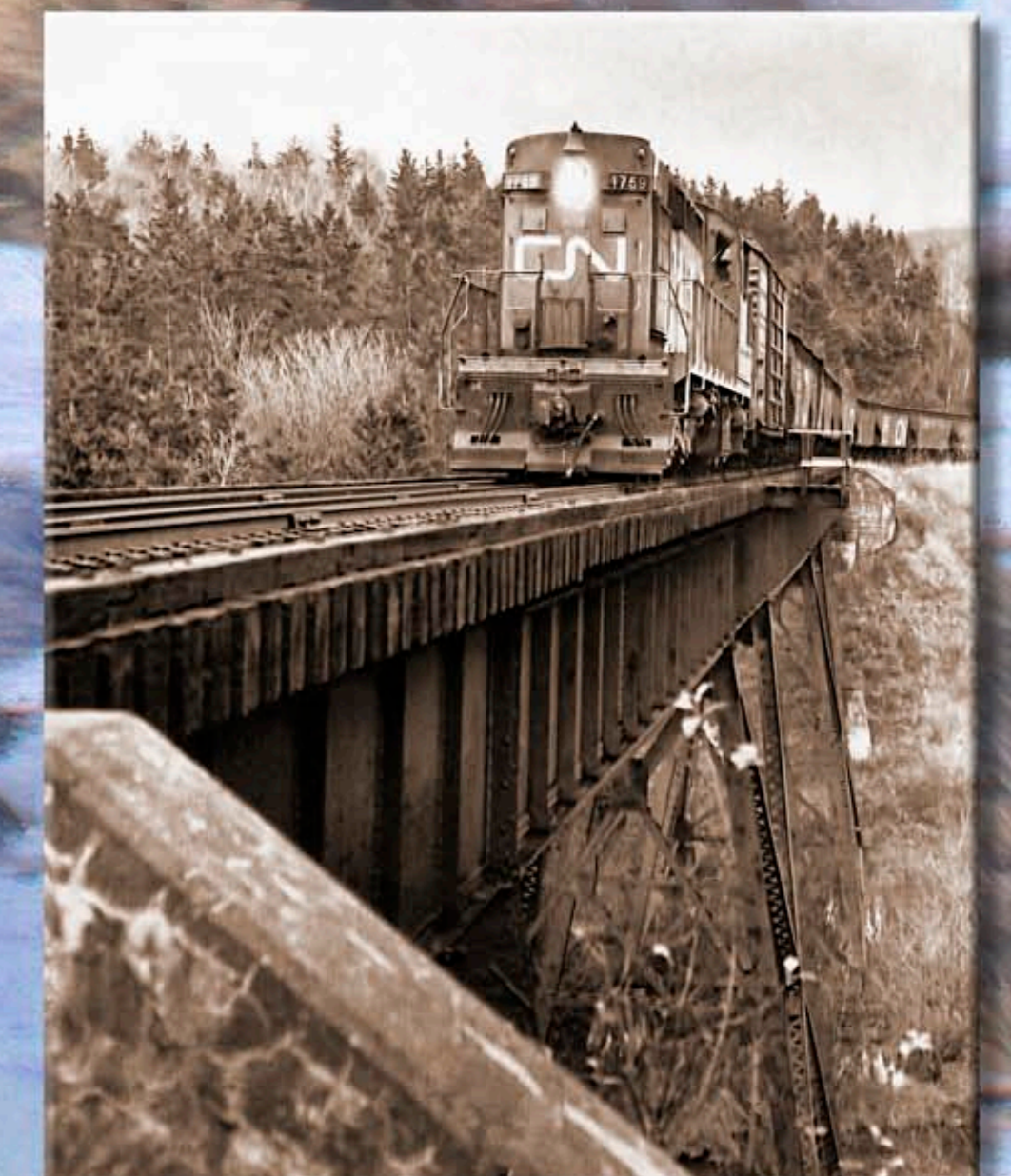
Text: Ned MacDonald
Photos: Inverness Miners Museum
Photo restoration and layout: MV Design, www.wdmv.ca
Background art and winter photo: Walter Delorey
Property of Inverness County Trans Canada Trail Project.



A well dressed family (unknown) pose on the trestle, 1923



The old wooden structure is replaced with a steel structure by Canadian National Railway. 1931-32



CNR diesel-electric engine #1765 travelling toward Inverness, 1978