



# The Burlington Canal Lift Bridge



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The Burlington Lift Bridge provides access to thousands of commercial and pleasure vessels that enter the Hamilton Harbour each year.



The Bridge provides the only crossing over the Harbour for pedestrians and cyclists.



It is the closest viable detour route for vehicular traffic during closures to the QEW/Burlington Bay Skyway Bridges.



- Five different bridges since 1830
- Present bridge was opened in 1962
- Originally two lanes of road traffic and a rail line.
- 1982 the rail was removed and the road widened to the current four lanes of road traffic







- Span is 380 ft long and 65 ft wide
- Bridge weight is 2200 tons
- Counterweights offset the span weight so that the motors are only lifting approx. 14 tons
- Four 150 hp motors located in the bridge towers - 2 in each tower
- Electrically tied to make sure the bridge remains leveled during the operation
- A back-up generator powers the bridge during any power failures
- At full speed the bridge travels 60 feet per minute

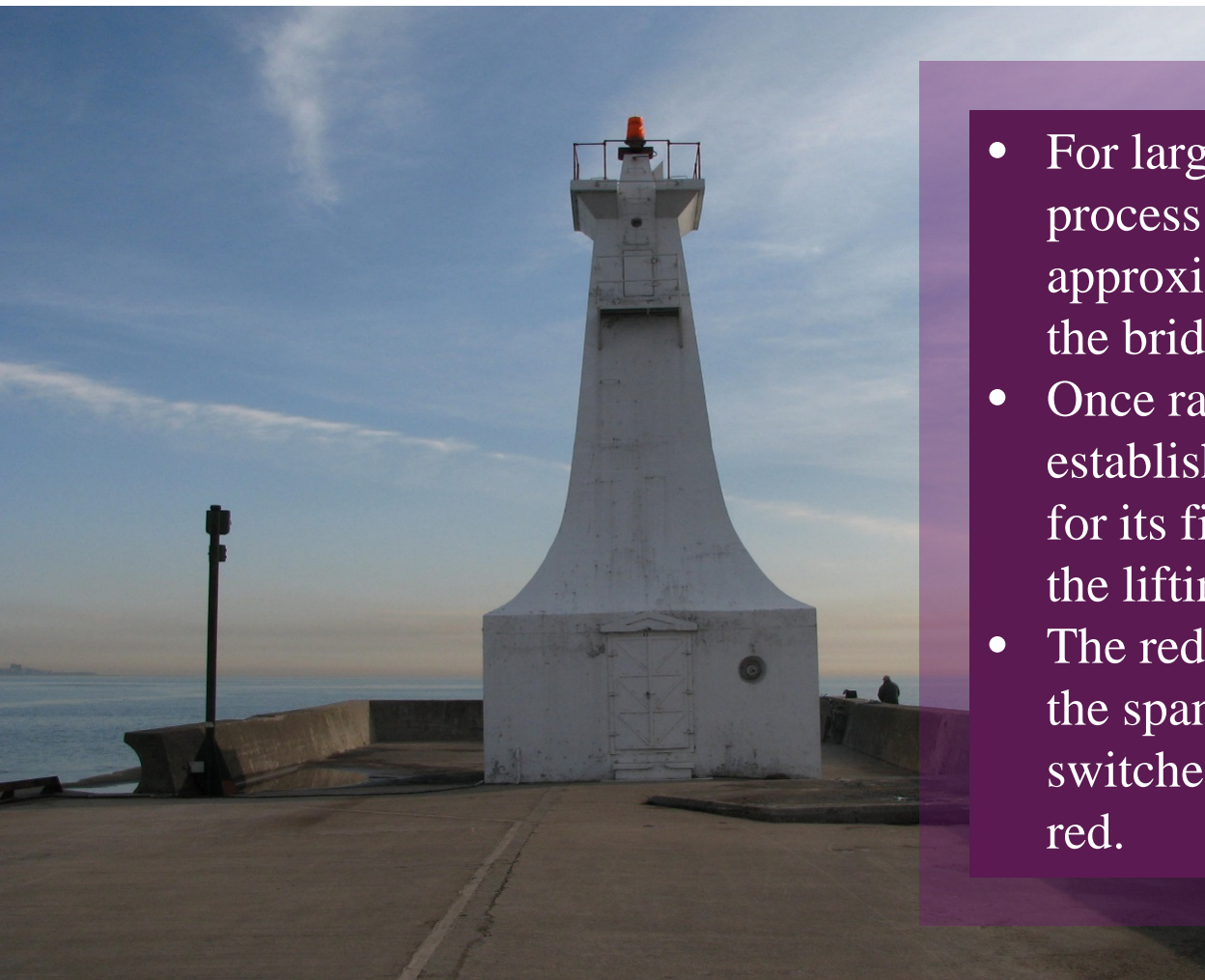
- The navigation season runs from mid-March to the end of December, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Commercial boating traffic accounts for roughly 1500 vessels per year, including tugs and work boats, while pleasure craft numbers are approx. 5000 per year.
- The bridge has operated over 200,000 times.



# Bridge Operation







- For large commercial vessels, the process begins while the vessel is approximately 1.5 miles away from the bridge.
- Once radio communication has established that the vessel is lining up for its final approach to the bridge, the lifting sequence is started.
- The red navigation light located on the span and at the end of the piers is switched from solid red to flashing red.



- The navigation horn warns all
- Pedestrian Traffic is Stopped followed by vehicular traffic
- The Bridge is unlocked and the span is ready to be raised
- Through a series of steps the Operator ramps the bridge up to full speed.
- Once fully raised the navigation lights change from flashing red to solid green
- indicating to the ship that the bridge is fully raised.
- Once the vessel has proceeded under the span the operator will lower the span in the reverse order



## New Controls and Drives



- We are currently undertaking a major construction project to replace key components of the bridge lift system to ensure the continued safety and functionality of this transportation link.
- The replacement of key components of the bridge's lift system will extend its serviceable life, meeting the needs of both marine and vehicular traffic in the area.

*Safety is a top priority for PSPC.*



