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August 22, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAROSE BRIDGE RE-OPENS FOR TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIANS

On Friday, August 19, 2022 the LaRose Bridge, connecting Coleman Township and the Town of Cobalt, was opened for vehicular and pedestrian traffic after a closure of almost 20 months.

The LaRose Bridge Replacement Project was made possible through the Investing in *Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Rural and Northern Stream* and the Township of Coleman. The Township's application to ICIP was approved in late August, 2020 with a financial contribution of \$2,993,615 from the Government of Canada; \$1,662,953 from the Province of Ontario; and \$331,145 from the Township of Coleman.

Despite some supply chain issues caused by COVID-19, which resulted in unforeseen delays, the project has remained on budget.

Council awarded the design/build contract to the Miller Paving (Northern Group) on September 14, 2020. Miller Paving utilized another local company, EXP, to work with them on the design of the new bridge.

In 2009, the previous 100 year old bridge was restricted to light vehicle traffic due to the deterioration of the timber truss section. In order to ensure emergency, public works and commercial vehicles could utilize the bridge, the Township deemed it necessary to look at a total replacement.

Mayor Dan Cleroux was pleased to see the bridge re-opened to the public. "The LaRose Bridge is an important connecting link for our residents and visitors to our community who use the Silver Heritage Trail. The replacement of the Bridge is a major accomplishment for the Township of Coleman and ensures our continued vitality as a community with Over 2 Billion Square Feet of Opportunity."

Mayor Cleroux thanked the Government of Canada, the Honourable Anthony Rota, M.P. for Nipissing-Timiskaming and the Province of Ontario for their financial assistance as well as Miller Paving (Northern Group) and EXP for their dedication to the project.

An Official Grand Opening of the bridge is being planned by the Township, but will be held at a later date.

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Over 2 Billion Square Feet of Opportunity

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