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# Bridge for children's camp

## TRAIL

Times Staff

The Ministry of Transportation and Highways in co-operation with the Canadian Militia and U.S. Army Reserves improved access to the Main River Wilderness Camp by replacing a suspension footbridge with a new one lane bailey bridge. The camp is located on the far side of the Kettle River.

Personnel from the 44 Engineering Squadron of Trail, along with members of reserve engineering units from western Canada and the U.S., all under the direction of Lieutenant Brent Warne, Bridge Commander, provided the manpower to erect the bailey bridge, said project manager Art Prodehal.

He added that the Ministry of Transportation and Highways provided engineering expertise,

constructed the piers and provided the bailey bridge from surplus storage. The military was searching for training opportunities for their recruits, the camp required improved access, and the ministry had in storage a bailey bridge, which was still usable but no longer met highway engineering standards.

With the resources of several different agencies, the ministry has been able to assist the camp which provides wilderness camping experiences for children of all abilities, focusing on those who are mentally and physically challenged and between the ages of eight and 18 years of age.

Until recently access to the camp, located 21 km north of Westbridge on Christian Valley Road, was provided by a worn suspension footbridge. This meant that all supplies for the

camp had to be carried across the footbridge and that access for service and emergency vehicles was limited. Having identified this opportunity for co-operation Prodehal organized the installation of the new structure across the Kettle River.

While the bailey bridge can no longer be used for regular highway traffic, with a posted load limit of 5 tonnes, it is more than adequate for the light traffic at the camp. Construction of the new access began on Aug. 4 and was completed Friday.

The camp is sponsored by agencies such as the Vancouver Foundation, the Variety Club, Kinsmen and KRoatry Clubs and is administered by the Mian River Rehabilitation Society, a non-profit society based in Kelowna.