

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE STREETS OF GASPÉ

The evolution of Gaspé's streets
since the 1920's

KEN ANNETT



Village de Gaspé 1934

THE STREETS OF THE TOWN OF GASPÉ

Like an individual, a town grows and changes with passing time. In this article GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY will attempt to recall some of the changes that have occurred in Gaspé since the time of World War I. To that end the street pattern of the following three periods will be recalled:

1. THE 1920's
2. THE 1950's
3. FOR 1994

For the 1920's, fully aware of the perils of personal recall over a significant span of time, I propose to recount my travel to school in distant days from my home in L'Anse-aux-Cousins (#22/23 of MAP 2) to the Gaspé Intermediate School, with reference to the roads and streets of the time.

For the 1950's, recourse will be had to a town plan of Gaspé, with supplementary text on the origins of street names as published by the Gaspesian newspaper, "VOYAGEUR".

For the existing plan in 1994, GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY thanks the Town Clerk of the Ville de Gaspé, Judith Desmeules, ll.b., o.m.a. for up-to-date information.

Given the period of time involved, it is possible that errors of omission and commission will be noticed. In such event GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY will appreciate information to set the record straight.

THE 1920's

The long, gradual slope upwards of the highway from the lands of L'Anse-aux-Cousins towards the town of Gaspé was bordered in the 1920's by woodland on the right from its base to near the crest. On the left, or Bay side, were the homes of the managers of the Shepard and Morse Lumber Company Mills on the Point below, Messrs Harris and Orlay Calhoun. An account of the lumber mills is to be found in GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY, #117- "DOWN ON THE POINT".

Once at the crest of the long hill the highway ran shortly past the Shepardville colony of company-built houses for staff of the mills on the Point below. With a frontage of only three or four lots on the highway the development extended down the rather steep slope towards the North West Arm of Gaspé Bay. A road had been built by the Company to link the homes of Shepardville with the mills below - a road that debouched on the highway just beyond the settlement.

From Shepardville, along to the "Bluff", where the highway made a sharp turn towards Gaspé Basin, there were no houses or other buildings until the clearing where the George Buckley home and tourist cabins were to be found on the left side of the roadway. Before, at and after the "Bluff" the lands on the right hand of the highway, densely wooded, were part of the Jopling estate. On the beach at the "Bluff" was a small Jopling wharf and boat-house. A nearby salmon stand was fished by the Patterson family of L'Anse-aux-Cousins. Once round the bend of the "Bluff" the Jopling home and out-buildings could be glimpsed through the trees to the right of the highway. The view to the left was of the entrance to Gaspé Basin and the shore of Gaspé Harbour with its railway terminal.

At the junction of the highway and the lane leading to the Jopling home a Dr. Bossé built his residence. The lane became the street that bears his name.. A short way beyond, the highway reached a brook known over time as "CROANS BROOK", "ARNOLD'S BROOK" and "KAVANAGH'S BROOK", spanned by a small, wooden bridge. Here the highway made another right-angled turn to climb a short hill past the Roman Catholic cemetery and the old Catholic church at the crest of the grade. The site gave a splendid view out over Gaspé Bay and the entrance to the Basin, then unobstructed by a bridge. At the corner opposite the old church was the original site of the monument later erected to the memory of the noted French airman, Count Jacques De Lesseps and his Russian mechanic who were lost on a flight from Gaspé Basin in 1927.

To return to the little bridge over Kavanagh's Brook, it was near the corner where Jacques Cartier Street would later be opened that the Eden, Suddard, McKenzie and Chretien homes were located. For some years the Coffin brothers of L'Anse-aux-Cousins, Leslie and Hilton operated a garage on the front of the Eden property.

The highway, now become the Main Street of Gaspé Town, skirted the edge of the bank to the left of the second and larger Catholic Church, later destroyed by fire and to be replaced by the present Cathedral on a different site. Adjacent to the church property was the fine home of Charles Lindsay and just beyond, at the foot of a short incline, the original Veit family home. At this point the Lowndes Hill, on the left, sloped down the bank to give access to the water, the Lowndes Company storehouses and their wharf. A lane, bordering the west line of the Veit property gave access to the McKenzie home to the rear.

In the 1920's no bridge obstructed and marred the entrance to the beautiful and sheltered haven of Gaspé Basin. The building of the first lift bridge and of the subsequent fixed bridge would result in the new street plan to be seen today.

On the right, Morin Street ran up the slope from Main Street. A landmark at the corner for many years was the barber shop of John Joseph. The short block from Morin Street to Carter's Hill, which gave access to the Point, had a concentration of stores and public buildings - the Davis, Patterson and Suddard stores, Post Office, Customs Office and the Bank of Toronto. Homes of the influential Carter family were located on the slope at the right from Carter's Hill to the Robin's Hill. Also in that block were to be found the Morin Hotel, the Banque Canadien Nationale and, at the top of Robin's Hill, overlooking the Point below, the impressive War Memorial.

To the right of Main Street, between the War Memorial and the Baker Hotels, the residence of the Robin Co. manager was set back in a spacious lot. At this point a long run of wooden steps linked Main Street with the Point below. A rather primitive wooden sidewalk bordered Main Street on the left.

The Baker Hotels complex was undoubtedly a leading establishment of Gaspé. It comprised the hotel proper, the Lodge and the One Ash Inn, the latter having been the home of the late Commander William Wakeham. Baker's Hotel was internationally known as a good hostelry for the traveller and the sportsman. To the west of the One Ash Inn the Wakeham Lane bordered the depth of the property while to the left of Main Street a roadway slanted down the bank to give access to the Point below.

A block beyond the Wakeham Lane was Davis Street with its steep slope upwards to the homes of the Davis family. Other homes in the neighbourhood of Davis Street were those of the families of Earl Annett, Dr.Brassard, Tom Miller, Wilton Guignon, Dr.Macartney and Malcolm LeTouzel.

Another block westward along Main Street brought one to St.Paul's Anglican Church and the adjacent Gaspé Intermediate School-both on the right of the street. At that time the Anglican Church Hall was on the left of Main Street directly in front of the school lot.The Anglican cemetery bordered the school property on the west and beyond it was the Methodist Church and Cemetery. The Anglican Parsonage and the Richmond home were set back from Main Street near St.Paul's Church.

As I recall there were no other side streets as Main Street ran westward to become the highway to Wakeham.

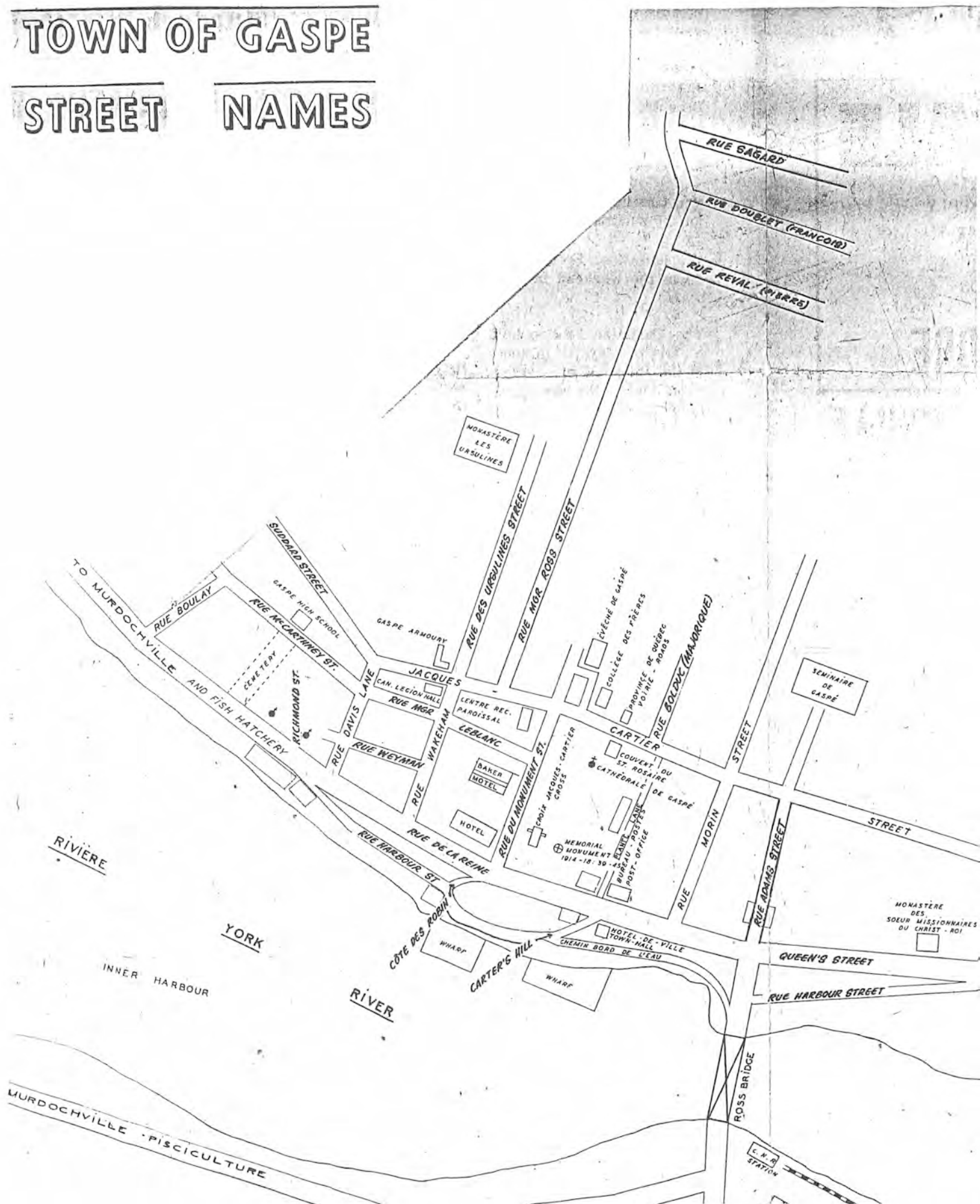
THE 1950's

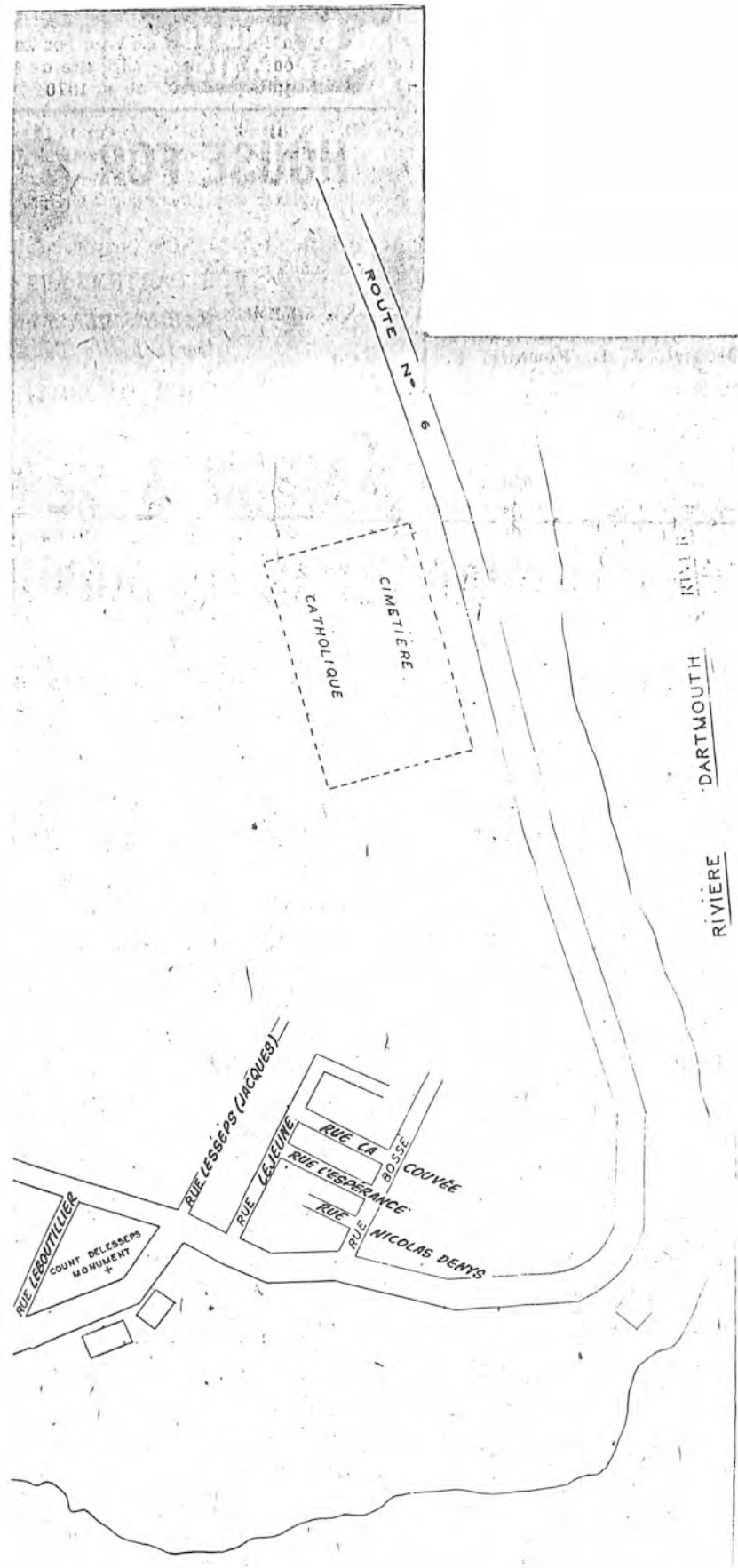
The evolution of Gaspé's streets is reflected in the following plan published in that era by the newspaper "VOYAGEUR".

The supplementary list of street names and their origin is a commendable, if minimal, attempt to record the source of the names given to Gaspé streets.

TOWN OF GASPE

STREET NAMES





ROUTE N° 6

CIMETIERE
CATHOLIQUE

RIVIERE
DARTMOUTH

RUE LESSEPS (JACQUES)

RUE LEJEUNE

RUE L'ESPERANCE

RUE LA BOISSE

RUE NICOLAS DENYS

RUE LA COURVE

RUE LEBONVILLE
COUNT DELESSEPS
MONUMENT

BAIE DE GASPE - BAY

GASPÉ

The following is a list of street names drawn up by a committee appointed by the Gaspé Town Council.

1. HARBOUR STREET:

2. **QUEEN STREET:** In honor of Queen Elizabeth II who visited Gaspé on June 21st, 1959.

3. **RUE JACQUES CARTIER:** claimed Canada as a possession of the King of France by planting a cross at Gaspé on the 24th of July 1534.

4. **RUE MORIN:** Isidore Morin was a pioneer of Gaspé, His father Mellon Morin was originally from Levis.

5. RUE DU MONUMENT:

6. **WAKEHAM STREET:** Dr. Wakeham formerly a captain of the "Canadien" constructed the "One Ash Inn".

7. **WEYMAN STREET:** Anglican Minister in Gaspé from 1904 to 1945.

8A. **RUE MGR LEBLANC:** Bishop of Gaspé from 1945 to 1957.

8B. **MCCARTINEY STREET:** For many years a well loved doctor practicing medicine in the village of Gaspé.

9. **DAVIS STREET:** Charles Davis a Massachusetts Loyalist came to Gaspé for his health many years ago. He was the father of John F. Davis.

10. **RUE BOULAY:** Ancestor of the many Boulay families in and around Gaspé.

11. **RUE MGR ROSS:** First Bishop of Gaspé, 1923.

12. **RUE REVAL:** Pierre Reval owned a fishing establishment (1745-1755) and was military commander of the Gaspé Region. He died before the arrival of Wolfe.

13. **RUE DOUBLET:** A clerk with the East Indian Company in Gaspé (1665) who came with 40 men to mine a lead deposit. The mine was abandoned for lack of ore.

14. **RUE SAGARD:** Settled in Gaspé with Father Viel in 1623.

15. **RUE BOLDUC:** Majorique Bolduc first curé of Gaspé, 1875.

16. **LEBOUTILLIER STREET:** In honor of John LeBoutillier born in Jersey. His ancestors were from Normandy and he came to Canada as an 18 year old employee of Charles Robin. Starting humbly he worked up to a managerial position and married one of Robin's daughters. Going into business on his own Leboutillier had contacts as far as St. Anne des Monts, He represented Gaspé South

in parliament for a total of 21 years and was named to the Legislature Council in 1867. He died in 1872. He was also responsible for the reconstruction of the Chateau Ramsay which was to become Gaspé's first hospital in 1926.

17. **RUE LESSEPS:** Count Jacques de Lesseps son of the de Lessep's of Suez Canal fame, layed out the first aerial map of the Peninsula. He was killed in an airplane crash over New Foundland and is buried in the Gaspé Cemetery.

18. **RUE LEJEUNE:** Jesuit priest who said the first mass in Gaspé on the 13 of June 1632.

19. **RUE BOSSE:** In memory of Dr. Bosse first owner of "Petit France" and a Gaspé Doctor for many years.

20. **RUE NICOLAS DENYS:** Obtained the first trade chartar for the territory in 1653. This included the area from Canseau to Cap des Rosiers.

21. **RUE L'ESPERANCE:** In honor of Senator D. O. L'Esperance who is said to be one of Gaspé's greatest benefactors in the time of the first Bishopric.

22. **LACOUVEE STREET:** In honor of Captain Alfred Lacouvé captain of the "Margaret" for many years who is French-Canadian on his father's side and English on his mother's. Born in Labrador he and his descendants played important roles in the development of Gaspé.

23. **ADAM'S STREET:** In honor of John Adam's ancestor of all the Adam's and of Mgr. P. Adams of Gaspé. Adam's was of German Origin and a Protestant when he first came to Gaspé. Both he and his wife became Roman Catholics and carpenter Adams constructed the first catholic chapel in Gaspé. The Adam's family settled in Gaspé around 1800.

24. **ROBIN'S HILL:** Robin, Jones and Whitman's was established in Gaspé in 1898.

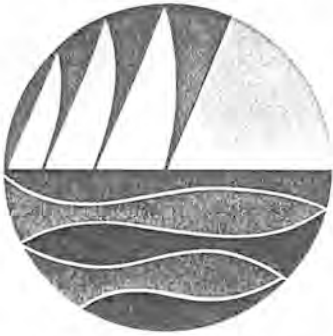
25. **CARTER'S HILL:** In honor of the Ancestors of the Carter family who came to Gaspé from England in 1836 as farmers. In a short time they acquired territory in Gaspé mining from the Baker's Hotel to the old Bishop's Palace. Of nine sons in this family the youngest, Alfred Theodore was to become the prolific heir.

A man of progress Alfred Theodore constructed the Town Hall, the Bank of Toronto, the old Canadian National Bank building and several other important structures. He was mayor of Gaspé for 30 years and acted as American Vice-consul and French Commissary. He was also responsible for the first side walks and electric lighting for the streets in 1853.

25. **SUDDARD STREET:** In honor of the first protestant Missionary, Reverend John Suddard.

27. **RUE DES URSULINES:** The Ursulines convent in Gaspé was founded in 1925.

28. **RUE RICHMOND.**



VILLE DE GASPÉ

110, rue de la Gare, Gaspé, Québec
Téléphone: (418) 390-1111
Télégramme: (418) 390-1111

September 19, 1994

Mr Kenneth H. Annett
1225, Lavigerie
Ste-Foy (Québec)
G1W 3W8


Dear Sir:

Following your letter dated August 31, 1994, you will find enclosed a plan of Gaspé streets as of 1994.

Unfortunately we do not have any available information on the names of those streets.

Your faithfully,

The town clerk,

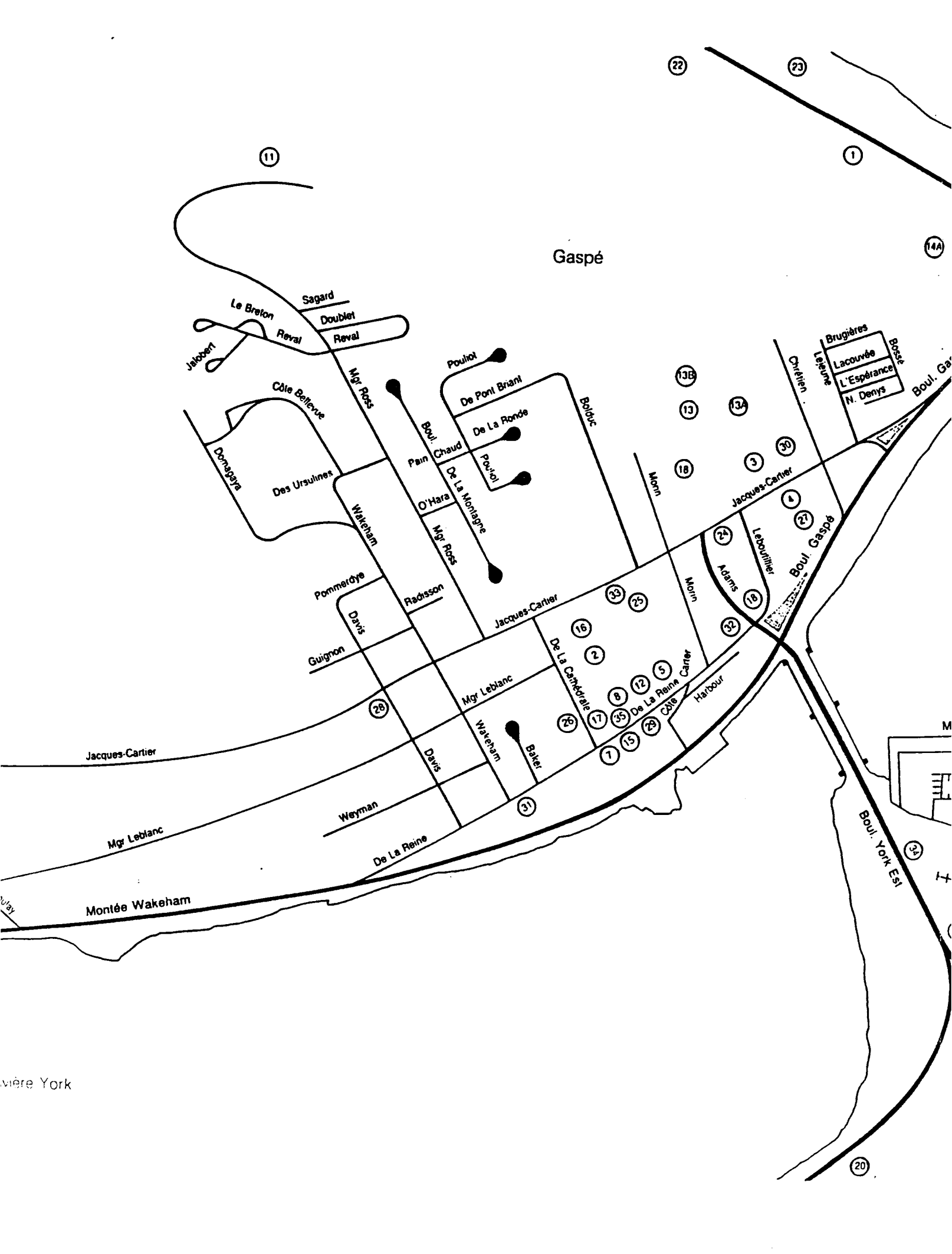

Judith Desmeules, ll.b., o.m.a.

/ds
encl.

IN 1994

The growth of Gaspé is reflected in the following street plan supplied to GASPE OF YESTERDAY by the Town Clerk of the VILLE DE GASPE. The following streets are shown:

Adams	Guignon	The following street names no longer are used:	
Baker	Harbour		
Bolduc	Jacques Cartier		
Bossé	Jalobert		Jacques de Lesseps
Bougainville	Jean Chou		McCarthy
Boul.De La Montagne	L'Espérance		Richmond
Boul.Gaspé	Lacouvée		Suddard
Boul.York Est	Le Boutillier		
Boulay	Le Breton		
Brugières	Lejeune		
Chabot	Mgr. Leblanc		
Chretien	Mgr. Ross		
Côte Bellevue	Montée Sandy Beach		
Côte Carter	Montée Wakeham		
Davis	Nicolas Denys		
De La Cathédrale	O'Hara		
De La Reine	Painchaud		
De La Ronde	Pommeraye		
De Pontbriand	Pouliot		
Des Ursulines	Radisson		
Domagaya	Reval		
Doublet	Sagard		
Frémont	Wakeham		
Granvillais	Wayman		



Gaspé

11

1

22

23

14A

Le Breton
Sagard
Reval
Reval
Doublet
Reval
Jalobert

Côte Bellevue
Des Ursulines
Walsham
Mgr Ross
Pain
O'Hara
Mgr Ross
De La Montagne

Pouliot
De Pont Briant
De La Ronde
Pouliot
Chaud
De La Montagne

Pommeroye
Radisson
Davis
Guignon

Jacques-Cartier
Mgr Leblanc
Weyman
De La Reine
Montée Wakeham

Jacques-Cartier
Mgr Leblanc
Walsham
Baker

Bois-à
Brugnières
Lacourvée
L'Espérance
N. Denys
Boul. Gaspé
Boul. York Est
Harbour
Côte
De La Reine
De La Cathédrale
De La Reine
Carter
Adams
Leboulleux
Jacques-Cartier
Moin
Moin
Boul. Gaspé

13B

13

13A

3

30

18

32

25

16

2

8

12

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7

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28

19

24

27

23

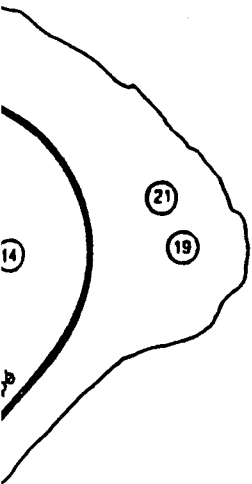
28

31

34

20

vière York



Baie de Gaspé

