

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

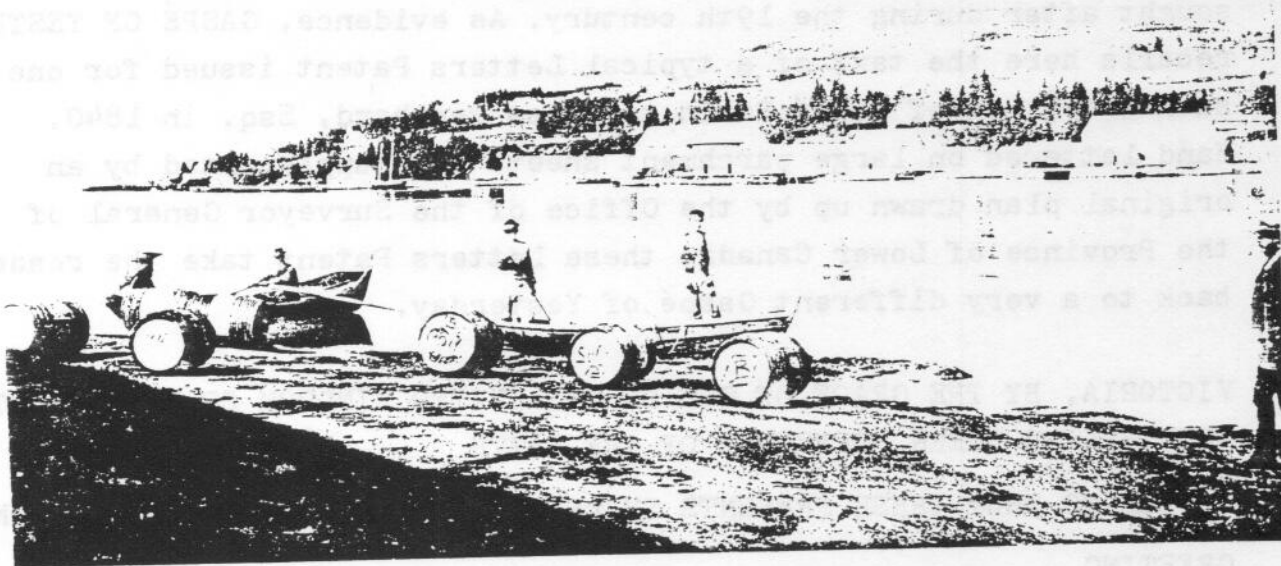
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GASPÉ BASIN WATER LOT

The importance of water lots of Gaspé Basin in the 19th century, as exemplified by the Letters Patent issued to James Perchard, Esquire, by the Crown, in 1840.

KEN ANNETT

GASPE BASIN WATER LOT



GASPÉ BASIN.

FOREWORD

"It seems", wrote Blowden Davies in GASPE, LAND OF HISTORY AND ROMANCE, "as though the Maker of Gaspé, after having shaped a North Shore destitute of harbours, relented when he came to the tip of the peninsula, that thrust itself so boldly into the sea, for here he carved a generous haven for sailors...a haven where they could rest, take on fresh water and fresh food, and set their ships in order...most of the men and women who people the scenes of Canadian pioneer history, came and went in Gaspé, grateful to its kindly hills and quiet waters...Gaspé Basin is haunted by the hulls of vessels long since gone to whatever heaven there is for good ships, and by a large and strangely assorted company of friends and enemies speaking the tongues and wearing the costumes of many lands..."

The eastern shores of Canada has had few, if any, more beautiful and serene harbours than the Basin of Gaspé. Before its entrance was firstly restricted and then effectively blocked by respective bridges, the Basin was readily accessible to shipping throughout

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the era of sailing ships and well into the subsequent era of the steam ships.

Valued throughout the French Regime as a port of call for trans-Atlantic shipping and as a fishing base and well known to British naval and military forces before the fall of Québec and New France, the shores of Gaspé Basin, with its deep water lots, were much sought after during the 19th century. As evidence, GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY recalls here the text of a typical Letters Patent issued for one such Water Lot of Gaspé Basin to James Perchard, Esq. in 1840. Hand lettered on large parchment sheets and supplemented by an original plan drawn up by the Office of the Surveyor General of the Province of Lower Canada, these Letters Patent take the reader back to a very different Gaspé of Yesterday.

VICTORIA, BY THE GRACE OF GOD OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND QUEEN, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME OR WHOM THE SAME MAY CONCERN
GREETING

Whereas our Loving Subject, James Perchard, of Our Inferior District of Gaspé, by his Petition bearing date the twenty first day of July in the Fourth year of Our Reign, presented unto our Trusty and Well Beloved Sir Richard Downes Jackson, Administrator of the Government of Our Province of Lower Canada, hath humbly represented unto Us to grant to him, the said James Perchard, and to his heirs and assigns for ever, a Lot or piece of Ground situate, lying and being in the Basin of Gaspé in Our said Province, hereinafter particularly described
And whereas our said Sir Richard Downes Jackson, Administrator of Our Government as aforesaid, and Our Executive Council of Our Said Province, having duly and maturely considered the said Petition, have adjudged it to be reasonable and advisable that We should grant unto the said James Perchard, and to his heirs and assigns for ever, the said Lot or piece of Ground.

And whereas by virtue of a certain Warrant of Survey, to him for that purpose directed under the hand and seal of Our Said Administrator of Our Government as aforesaid, bearing date the twenty second day of July, in the Fourth year of Our Reign aforesaid, Joseph Bouchette, Our

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Surveyor General of Our said Province of Lower Canada, hath made a faithful and exact survey of the daid Lot or piece of Ground, and the same hath laid out for the said grantee according to the said Warrant of Survey

NOW KNOW YE that We, having taken the premises into Our Royal consideration and judging the said Petition of the said James Perchard to be reasonable, and therefore being willing to grant to the said James Perchard the Lot or piece of Ground aforesaid, so as aforesaid surveyed and laid out for him, the said James Perchard, by our said Surveyor General, of Our especial grace, certain knowlwdge and mere motion have granted and confirmed, and by these Presents do give, grant and confirm for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, unto the said James Perchard, his heirs and assigns, for ever, the said Lot or piece of Ground situate, lying and being in the said Inferior District of Gaspé

Beginning at high water mark in the said Basin on the Easterly Line of a certain Lane in common between the Representatives of the late Hugh O'Hara, Esquire, and the said James Perchard, as at the point A on the annexed plan, thence running in prolongation of the said Line magnetically South, nine degrees East, one hundred and fifty feet into deep water in the said Basin of Gaspé aforesaid, as at the point B on the annexed plan, thence magnetically North eighty one degrees East, two hundred and eight feet until intersected by the prolongation of the said line dividing the said Henry O'Hara, Esq., and the said James Perchard aforesaid, as at the point C on the annexed plan, thence along the said prolongation magnetically North ninety degrees West about one hundred and fifty feet to high water mark aforesaid as at the point D on the annexed plan, thence magnetically South eighty one degrees West along high water mark aforesaid, and front boundary of the Lot of Land purchased by the said James Perchard, two hundred and eight feet to the place of beginning, the said Water Lot herein above described containing about 31,200 feet in Superficies, English measure.

To have and to hold the said Lot or piece of Ground and premises of Us, our Heirs and Successors unto the said James Perchard, his heirs and assigns, to his and their own proper use and behoff for ever, in free and common soc age, by fealty, and the annual rent of twenty

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shillings current money of this Province, to be paid yearly and every year at the Feast of Saint John The Baptist to Our Receiver General of Our said Province, for the use of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, in lieu of all other rents, services, dues and duties whatsoever, in like manner as Lands are now holden in Free and Common Soccage in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain called England.

And we do hereby grant to the said James Perchard, his heirs and assigns for ever, full power and liberty to use, occupy and enjoy the said Lot or piece of ground and premises in any manner that he or they shall yhink fit, by erecting a wharf or wharves, store or stores, or other buildings thereon and to apply the produce or profits thence arising to thrir own use and benefit, paying only to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, the rent aforesaid

Provided always, and these Presents are upon the express condition, that Our grantee, his heirs and assigns, do and shall, within three years from the date hereof, erect and build or cause to be erected and built on the said tract of Ground and premises hereinbefore granted, or on some part thereof, an open public wharf or wharves for the greater convenience and accommodation of ships and vessels resorting to or lying in Our Basin of Gaspé and for the more safe and easy lading and unloading of goods, wares and merchandizes at any such wharf and wharves, in and upon and from and out of any such ship or vessel

And it shall and may be lawful for all and every person and persons whomsoever to use the said wharf or wharves for the purpose of moorage and wharfage and to moor and fasten ships or vessels thereto and to lade and unlade any goods, wares and merchandizes at any such wharf or wharves, and also to use any crane or cranes erected thereon upon payment of a reasonable rate and rates as and for moorage, wharfage and cranage to be assessed and allowed to the proprietor or wharf-inger of such wharf or wharves, by and under the authority and in the manner hereinafter mentioned

Provided always, and we do hereby reserve to Us, Our Heirs and Successors and to all our liege Subjects, for their respective benefit and advantage, from time to time and at all times hereafter at their respective will and pleasure, by night and by day, to go, return, pass and repass

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through, along and over the aforesaid described Lot or piece of ground and over any wharf or wharves erected or to be hereafter erected thereon, for the purpose of towing of boats, barges, rafts, scows and other vessels, up and down the Basin of Gaspé, when and so often as they shall have occasion so to do

And we do hereby, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant to the said James Perchard, his heirs and assigns, being proprietors of the said wharf or wharves to be erected on the said Lot or piece of ground and premises, to demand, have and receive, to and for their own use, from every person or persons whom the said shall or may concern, such reasonable rate and rates for moorage for all ships or vessels which shall be moored or fastened to the said wharf or wharves, and as and for wharfage for all goods, wares and merchandizes shipped off, laden or unladen at the said wharf or wharves, and as and for cranage for the use of any crane or cranes to be erected on the said wharf or wharves, as shall, from time to time, be assessed and allowed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government of Our said Province of Lower Canada, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council of Our said Province

Provided also that if Our said Grantee, his heirs and assigns, do not nor shall within the aforesaid term of three years, from the date of these Presents, erect and build, or cause to be erected and built, an open public wharf or wharves on the said Lot or piece of ground and premises, hereby granted them, then, and in such case, this Our present grant and everything herein contained, shall cease and be absolutely void, and the said Lot or oiece of ground and premises shall revert and escheat to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and become the absolute property of Us or Them in the same manner as if these Presents had never been made, anything contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided always, nevertheless, and we do hereby reserve to Us, Our Heirs and Successors full power and authority to erect and build one or more Battery and Batteries or any other works of military defence upon the said Lot or piece of ground hereby granted, or any part thereof, whenever Our or Their Service may require the same

And We do hereby direct and appoint that within six months from the

date of these Presents a copy of these our Letters Patent shall be registered in Our Registrar's Office in Our City of Québec, in Our said Province and that a docket thereof shall also be entered in Our Auditor's Office in the said City of Québec in Our said Province and that in default thereof the whole premises hereby granted shall revert and escheat to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and become the absolute property of Us or Them in the same manner as if the present grant had never been made, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding

And We do moreover of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion consent and agree that these Our present Letters Patent, being registered and a docket thereof made as before directed and appointed, shall be good and effectual in Law to all intents and purposes whatsoever against Us, Our Heirs and Successors, notwithstanding any misreciting, misbounding, misnaming or any other imperfections of or in any wise concerning the above granted or intended to be granted Lot or piece of Ground and premises, or any part thereof

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters Patent and the Great Seal of Our said Province of Lower Canada to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS Our Trusty and Well Beloved Sir Richard Downes Jackson, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Administrator of the Government of Our Province of Lower Canada and Commander of Our Forces in British North America.

At Our Castle of Saint Lewis in Our City of Québec, in Our said Province of Lower Canada, the twenty ninth day of July in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty, and in the Fourth Year of Our Reign.

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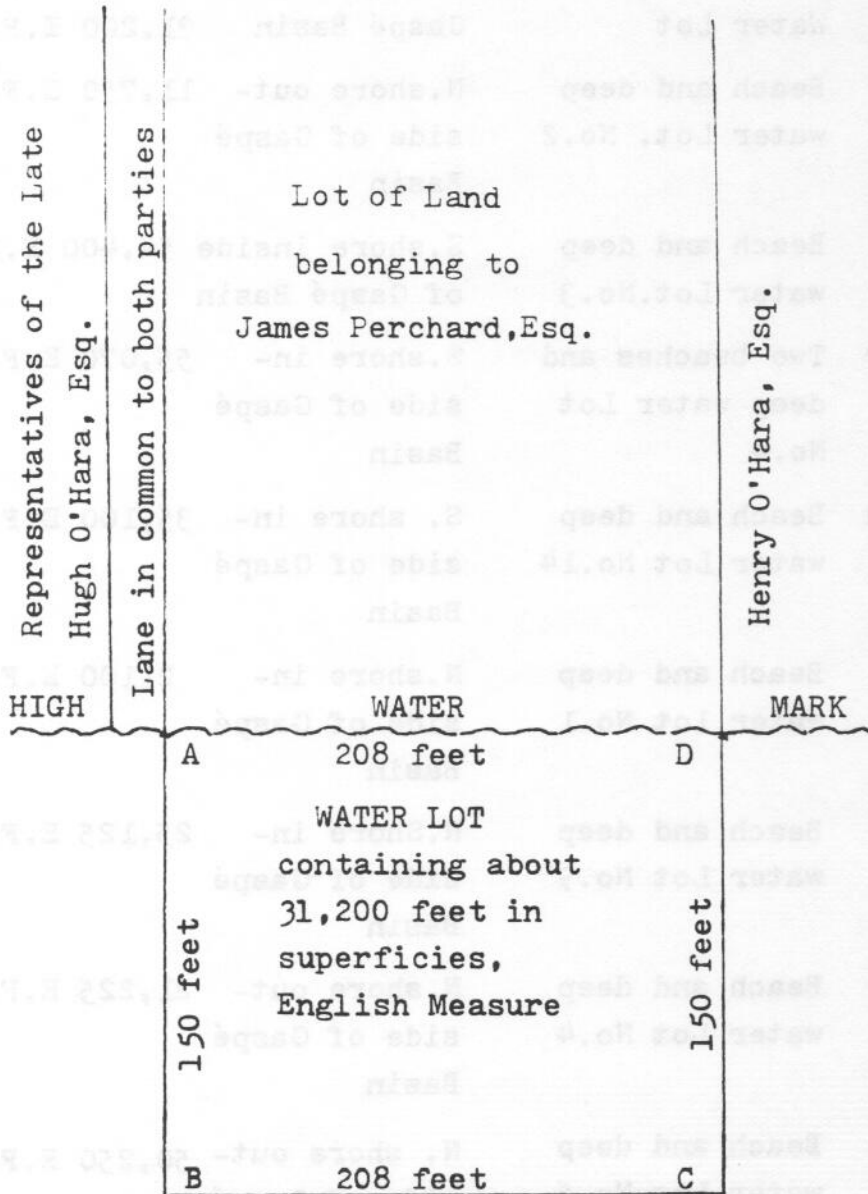
PLAN

of a Certain WATER LOT to be granted

to James Perchard, Esq.

in the

BASIN OF GASPE



BASIN OF GASPE

GASPE BASIN GRANTS

In the context of the above grant of a water lot in Gaspé Basin to James Perchard, Esq., it is of interest to note the award of other lots in Gaspé Basin as listed in the official publication of lands granted by the Crown.

GRANTEE	LOT GRANTED	RANGE	ACRES	LETTERS PATENT
John D. McConnell	"Fort Ramsay" Lot	Gaspé Basin	68+ acres	1838
James Perchard	Water Lot	Gaspé Basin	31,200 E.F.	1840
David Baird	Beach and deep water Lot. No.2	N.shore out-side of Gaspé Basin	11,750 E.F.	1864
William Fruing and Philip Luce	Beach and deep water Lot.No.3	S.shore inside of Gaspé Basin	54,400 E.F.	1864
John LeBoutillier	Two beaches and deep water Lot No.4	S.shore in-side of Gaspé Basin	55,070 E.F.	1864
Antoine Painchaud	Beach and deep water Lot No.14	S. shore in-side of Gaspé Basin	35,100 E.F.	1864
John Eden	Beach and deep water lot No.1	N.shore in-side of Gaspé Basin	2,100 E.F.	1864
Thomas LeGros	Beach and deep water Lot No.9	N.Shore in-side of Gaspé Basin	25,125 E.F.	1864
Thomas Laws	Beach and deep water Lot No.4	N.shore out-side of Gaspé Basin	21,225 E.F.	1864
James Carter,Sr.	Beach and deep water Lot No.5	N. shore out-side of Gaspé Basin	50,250 E.F.	1864
James Carter,Jr.	Beach and deep water Lot No.6	N. shore out-side of Gaspé Basin	37,600 E.F.	1864

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GRANTEE	LOT GRANTED	RANGE	ACRES	LETTERS PATENT
Alex. James	Beach and deep water Lot being W.2/3 Lot.29	N.shore inside of Gaspé Basin	38,400 E.F.	1864
James J.Lowndes	2 beach Lots at deep water - Nos. 23 + 24	N. shore outside of Gaspé Basin	202,200 E.F.	1864
John Collas + Elias Collas	Beach and deep water Lot. No.7	N. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	38,816 E.F.	1864
William Hyman	Beach and deep water Lot.No.3	N. shore outside of Gaspé Basin	21,225 E.F.	1864
Charles LeBoutillier	Beach and deep water Lot No.6	S.shore inside Gaspé Basin	30,200 E.F.	1864
John LeBoutillier	Beach and deep water Lot No.7	S.shore inside of Gaspé Basin	33,252 E.F.	1864
	Two beaches and deep water Lots Nos. 1 + 2	S.shore inside of Gaspé Basin	12,906 E.F.	1864
John Collas + Elias Collas	Beach and deep water Lot No.6	N. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	6,335 E.F.	1864
Joseph Eden	Two beach and deep water Lots No. 1 and S.O. extension	N. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	5,625 E.F.	1864
Nicholas Dumaresq	Beach and deep water Lot No,11	N. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	17,200 E.F.	1864
George Dumaresq	Beach and deep water Lot No.3	N. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	14,336 E.F.	1864

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GRANTEE	LOT GRANTED	RANGE	ACRES	LETTERS PATENT
Felix Wm Coffin	Beach and deep water Lot No.4	N.shore inside of Gaspé Basin	16,554 E.F.	1864
Nicholas Dumaresq	Beach and deep water Lot No.10	N. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	28,625 E.F.	1864
Horatio LeBoutillier	Two beach and deep water Lots No.8+9	S. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	101,700 E.F.	1865
John Bechervaise	Beach and deep water Lot No.12	N. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	16,300 E.F.	1864
Benjamin Bechervaise	Beach and deep water Lot No.19	N. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	18,300 E.F.	1865
John Collas + Elias Collas	Beach and deep water lot - part of No.2 and part of 1st Reserve B.	N.shore inside of Gaspé Basin	20,750 E.F.	1865
Angus McKay	Beach and deep water Lot No.20	N. shore inside of Gaspé Basin	18,900 E.F.	1866
James, John and Henry Lowndes	Two beach and deep water Lots Nos.10 + 11	N. shore out- side of Gaspé Basin	100,400 E.F.	1866
	Beach and deep water Lot -part of No.12		53,700 E.F.	1870
John Arthur Vibert	Beach and deep water Lot No.7	N. shore out- side of Gaspé Basin	44,000 E.F.	1871
John Slous	Beach and deep water Lot No.8	N. shore out- side of Gaspé Basin	44,900 E.F.	1871
John Wilson Jr.	Beach and deep water Lot No.9	N. shore out- side of Gaspé Basin	46,300 E.F.	1872

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GRANTEE	LOT GRANTED	RANGE	ACRES	LETTERS PATENT
James and Joseph Patterson	Beach and deep water Lot No.12	S.shore outside of Gaspé Basin	38,900 E.F.	1872
John Short	Beach and deep water Lot	S.shore inside of Gaspé Basin	40,500 E.F.	1873
John Eden	Beach and deep water Lot	S.shore inside of Gaspé Basin	8,600 E.F.	1876
John Lambert	Beach and deep water Lot.No.33	N.shore outside of Gaspé Basin	53,000 E.F.	1877

CHALLENGE

The record of grants above is but a partial and imperfect recall of the long, significant and interesting story of the port of Gaspé Basin from the 16th century onwards. That story offers a field of research and study that should appeal to and challenge some of the increasing number of Gaspesian youth now engaged in university study at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. For within the broad parameters of the Gaspé Basin story countless project topics abound. It is the hope of GASPE OF YESTERDAY that by cooperative effort the contributions of our Gaspesian ancestors, particularly in the development of the Port of Gaspé Basin, will become better and more widely known.
