

CASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

120

LOUIS BOURDAGES

\*\*\*\*\*

1764-1835

\*\*\*\*\*

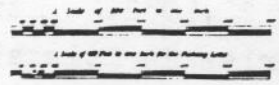
Son of Raymond and Esther  
LeBlanc Bourdages, raised  
at Bonaventure on the shore  
of Bay Chaleur, the character  
and distinguished career of  
Louis Bourdages reflected  
the Gaspesian experiences of  
his childhood. In times of  
peace and of strife he was  
honest, able and faithful.

KEN ANNETT.

A PLAN  
of  
**BONAVENTUR** in the BAY of CHALEURS  
In the PROVINCE of QUEBEC  
As Surveyed agreeable to Order and Instructions  
Of the Honourable **JAMES MURRAY Esq.**  
GOVERNOUR of the said PROVINCE  
And the Honourable His **MAJESTYS COUNCIL**  
By **JOHN COLLINS Dep. Sur. Genl.**

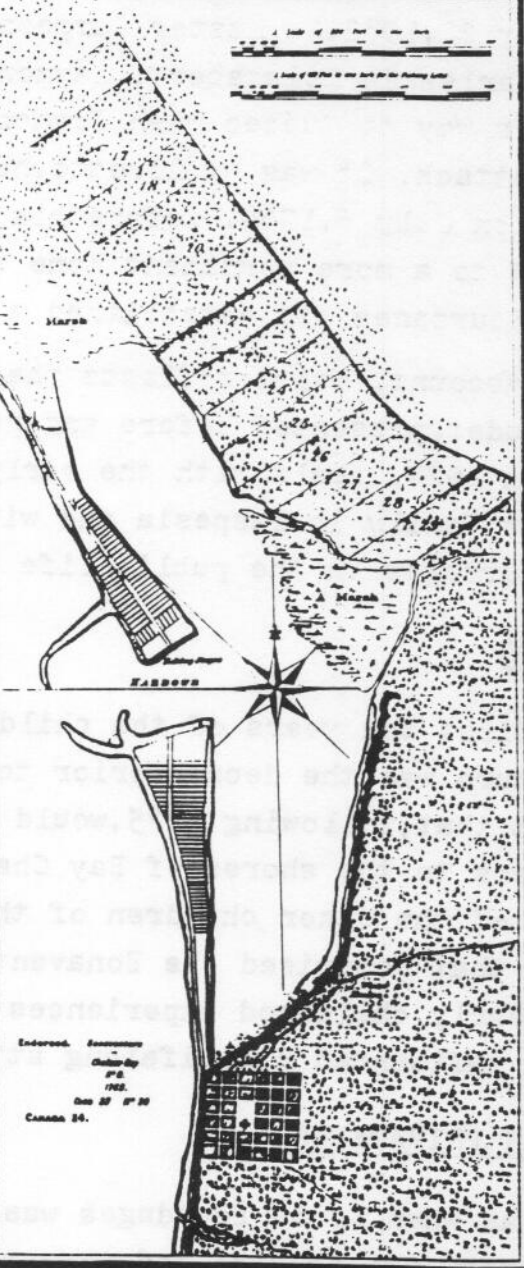
*Remarks*

The following is a list of the names of the proprietors of the lots in the town of Bonaventur, as they are given in the original survey. The names are given in the order in which they appear in the plan, and are accompanied by the number of the lot to which they belong. The names are given in the original French, and are here translated into English. The names of the proprietors are given in the order in which they appear in the original survey, and are accompanied by the number of the lot to which they belong. The names are given in the original French, and are here translated into English.



*Explanation referring to the Lots*

Number of Lot	Dimensions of Lot	Proprietor's Name	Acquisition	Acquisition	Acquisition	Acquisition	Acquisition	Acquisition
1	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
2	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
3	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
4	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
5	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
6	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
7	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
8	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
9	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
10	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
11	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
12	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
13	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
14	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
15	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
16	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
17	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
18	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
19	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
20	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
21	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
22	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
23	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
24	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
25	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
26	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
27	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
28	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of
29	50'	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of	De South of



Endorsed. *Examiné*  
Oubert de  
le 1702.  
De la 2<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>re</sup> 20  
CANADA 20.

*John Collins*

LOUIS BOURDAGES

FOREWORD

Reference to Raymond and Esther LeBlanc Bourdages and their family was made in the article, BONAVENTURE, published by AFIC in the issue of January 20, 1982. A Master Surgeon with the French forces led by Lieut. Charles de Boishébert, Raymond Bourdages and his wife, Esther, made their way to Québec when French control of Acadia was lost to British attack. It was at Lorette, near Québec, that Louis Bourdages was born on July 6, 1764. Before his first birthday the Bourdages family had moved to a more permanent home at Bonaventure in Bay Chaleur where Raymond Bourdages had established a business in 1762.

This account, which reflects the historical paper on Louis Bourdages by F.S. Audet, presented before and published by the Royal Society of Canada in 1924, deals with the early trials and tribulations of the Bourdages family in Gaspesia and with the distinguished career of Louis Bourdages in the public life of the Province of Québec.

CHILDHOOD

The first ten years of the childhood of Louis Bourdages in Bonaventure was the decade prior to the American Revolution - an event that, following 1775, would bring the scourge of American privateers to the shores of Bay Chaleur. Young Louis grew up in the company of the other children of the Acadian fishermen, sailors and farmers that comprised the Bonaventure settlement. Audet holds that Louis' early childhood experiences on the shores of beautiful Bay Chaleur influenced his lifelong attitudes and moulded his character.

AMERICAN PRIVATEERS

It was when Louis Bourdages was in his twelfth year that American privateers, the scourge and terror of Bay Chaleur, landed at the little settlement of Bonaventure, pillaged and burnt the home, store and outbuildings of the Bourdages family and took Raymond Bourdages prisoner. In another incident of the Revolutionary War, the Micmac Indians of Restigouche, Pokemouche and Miramichi plundered the establishment of Raymond Bourdages at Caraquet and carried off goods valued at some £ 12,000 sterling. It is of interest to note that the



2.

Micmac Indians were encouraged to attack and plunder the establishment of British subjects by the French Count d'Estaing who had been sent to America by King Louis XVI of France to lend aid and support to the American Revolution.

THE LAND TITLE PROBLEM:

To the hard blows that the Bourdages family experienced from the American privateers and the Indians there was added the long and frustrating struggle to obtain title to the lands that they had settled at Bonaventure. We can gain some appreciation of this problem from the following PETITION of Louis Bourdages in 1787.

[Unofficial translation from the French version]

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Guy, Lord Dorchester, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the British Colonies in North America, etc., etc.

That it please Your Excellency.

In consequence of a Proclamation of the Court of London permitting all Acadians and others to settle in Bay Chaleur, my father, wishing to benefit from the benevolence of His Majesty, came in 1762 to settle at Bonaventure in Bay Chaleur. There he soon established a home for his family, although he found much poverty among the settlers. Although his business enterprise appeared to encourage these poor people, their want persisted from the lack of encouragement to cultivate their lands, which, with a little effort could have provided them with food. My father responded to their needs and had the satisfaction of seeing several of the settlers work their lands with success. However, at the same time as he was trying to encourage and improve the lot of these poor settlers, his own business was, unceasingly, dogged by bad luck. Nothing, however, turned him from the settlement. He continued to advance to the settlers the seeds, stock and others items needed for the cultivation of their farms. After several years of work the settlers, who now harvested a quantity of grain, represented to my father that without the means of converting their grain into flour their work was to no avail. They urged my father to build a grist mill on the brook that was found on his land. Before undertaking such an important step my father had the honour of addressing Your Excellency in 1774 to determine if our lands had a Seigneur or if he could proceed to erect a mill on his land

without fear of trouble. Your Excellency graciously replied that we could work without fear of any trouble and that our work would serve as a deed. Moreover, we wish to have you know that the Bishop of Québec, M<sup>onsieur</sup> Brillant, told us that we could proceed to work our lands with assurance and that we had no other Seignior than the King. With such assurances my father expanded his business and at the request of the settlers built two grist mills to meet their needs.

Nonetheless, my father, who ever anticipated some trouble, took all possible care to determine if there was a Seignior for our lands and humbly addressed every Governor of the Province. Each of them replied graciously that we could work our lands without fear.

The American War of disastrous memory for us, illustrates how many settlers received aid from my father. Without the advances that he made to them some would have died from want and others would have had to abandon their lands. Exposed unceasingly to pillage by the Americans and Indians, no merchant dared risk his goods in Bay Chaleur. Without provisions and goods the situation was pitiable. To provide some relief to the settlers in dire need my father risked the welfare of his family. I recall with genuine grief how my father was plundered, captured and put in chains by the enemy. How can I convey to you the situation of his desolated family obliged to seek refuge in the woods to escape from the violence of the Americans. However, without regard for the King's Proclamation and the verbal assurances that Your Excellency gave us, and without consideration of the contributions of my father to the Bay Chaleur settlement, still due us, we do not have as yet any assurance that our lands and our mills, the only assets of a poor widow responsible for a large family and who, in her unfortunate state has no other hope than the particular goodness that you have always shown to the needy, are granted.

By virtue of all of these reasons I dare to beg Your Excellency to grant to the Widow Bourdages the title to the lands of thirty arpents frontage and sixty arpents in depth, actually occupied by our large family. I also beg Your Excellency to grant us the right of BANALITÉ ( the right in the seigniorial system to charge for the grinding of grain into flour) in Bonaventure so as to indemnify us for the great expense incurred by my father in providing mills for the Bay Chaleur settlers.

Québec, 17 Dec.1787

(Signed) Louis Bourdages /4

POSTSCRIPT AND NOTATION ON PETITION

If a certificate of the inhabitants and of the grand vicar of Bay Chaleur, to the effect that it was at their request my father built his mills, is judged necessary, I would be honoured to provide it for Your Excellency.

On the back of the Petition the following notation appears:

Mr. Bourdages' Petition for Lands, Chaleurs Bay.

Mr. Bourdages' Mémoire read 11th Jan'y.

Petition Read in Committee 11th Jan. 1788

Mr. Bourdages return'd this paper on Thursday the 10th Jan'y at a Committee to consider Col. Caldwell's petition for a Circle for Caldwell Manor.

The Chief Justice read and endorsed it. Delivered to M. Findlay.

THE MEMOIRE

Mémoire proving the right of the Widow Bourdages to have title to the lands that she has held for twenty-four years. (1764-1788)

As this concerns the happiness or unhappiness of an unfortunate widow, responsible for a large family, I beg you, Gentlemen, in the name of the most honest justice, to consider the reasons advanced by a son in his mother's defence. It is not by recourse to reason alone that I shall undertake to prove that we have incontestable right to the lands which my late father enjoyed for many years but I beg you to consider the laws that speak favourably for my cause.

Three well proven Articles will demonstrate to you the right that we have to obtain title to our lands; I dare to hope that I shall prove to you:

1st. That it was in good faith that we settled and cultivated the lands we have possessed for twenty-four years.

2nd. That no Seignior has right to take these lands.

ARTICLE ONE

In which I prove that we settled and cultivated the lands we have possessed for twenty-four years in good faith.

In 1762 my father, having spent some time in Bay Chaleur, took possession of a certain portion of land. To assure his enjoyment of



5.

it be addressed every respective Governor of the Province. By their replies and the many searches we made of various records it appears clear that there was no Seignior of our lands; it can be seen in my request (Petition) that the responses and assurances the Governors gave us were to serve as title. You see, Gentlemen, our good faith in the pains we took to discover if there was a Seignior of our lands; to this day we have, with much effort, farmed our lands without anyone forbidding us by virtue of their right. But now, when our lands are cleared and cultivated we are told that there is a Seignior. Yes, Gentlemen, it was only last year we learned that Mr. Holland (Major Samuel Holland, Surveyor General of Québec) claims to be the Seignior of our lands. But if he had title before we occupied our lands why did he not forbid us to settle there? Being at Québec he must have been aware of the settlement in Bay Chaleur and that the settlers had inquired as to Seigniors. By the precautions that we took it appears clear that we occupied and cultivated our lands in good faith.

#### ARTICLE TWO

In which prove the right that we had to take possession of our lands. When Acadia was conquered (by the British) the Acadians, having been expelled from their homeland, wandered miserably in all directions, subject to all the inconveniences of fortune. The King, on being advised of their miserable situation, wished to provide them with a place where they could reestablish their life and work; consequently, in 1762/63 he issued a Proclamation permitting all Acadians to establish themselves in all security in Bay Chaleur. It was in consequence of this belevolent Proclamation that many Acadians settled in Bay Chaleur. While some came to settle others who were already settled there proceeded to improve their lands. It was by virtue of this Proclamation that my father took up his lands.

Those Acadians who settled in Bay Chaleur under the Government of New Brunswick by virtue of the King's Proclamation obtained title to their lands without difficulty, whether or not there were pretentious Seigniors. Should not those Acadians settled under the equitable Government of the Right Honourable Lord Dorchester hope for as much.

Does it not seem unjust to uproot from their lands men who in the best of faith and under the protection of a Proclamation of the King, settled and cultivated their lands with such work and misery;

6.

because, Gentlemen, in deciding in my favour you will be deciding also the lot of fifty or sixty poor Acadian families who find themselves in our situation. Their misfortune and ours is certain if you do not consider that by virtue of the King's Proclamation we had right to take up lands in Bay Chaleur.

ARTICLE THREE

In which I prove that no Seignior had the right to take lands in Bay Chaleur.

It is certain that Monsr. Holland could only have taken lands in Bay Chaleur before or after the Acadians did and I submit that he had no right to take the lands either before or after.

Firstly, I submit that Mr. Holland could not have taken his lands before the Acadians.

It is widely known that when Acadia was conquered the Acadians were expelled from their homeland, some of them finding refuge in Québec and others in Bay Chaleur where they were obliged to work the land in order to live. I submit to you that Mr. Holland could not have taken lands in Bay Chaleur before the Acadians took theirs.

The point is raised that Mr. Holland took lands in a place where there was no settler and that in all of Bonaventure there was only some small cabins on an uncultivated sandbank. It is thus that Mr. Holland bases his reasons and pretensions; and it is why I beg you to consider my reply.

To the argument that Mr. Holland took lands in a place where there was no settler I would submit that in this particular place there had been a number of settlers for five or six years before he had his lands surveyed. Benjamin LeBlanc (uncle of Louis Bourdages) Comeau, and several others had settled at that precise place that Mr. Holland had surveyed for himself. Thus it appears that Mr. Holland took lands from poor settlers. My father had lands adjacent to these settlers though it is true that he was not yet established, his family not having arrived as yet, and he chose to lodge with one of the settlers.



With respect to the point that there were only some small cabins on an uncultivated sandbank I submit that Mr. Collins, in going to Bay Chaleur, was evidently unaware of the practice of the Acadians in having good, warm houses near the woods on their lands where they spent the winter working and where, in the spring and autumn they farmed their lands. In summer they used the little houses or cabins on the sandbank at the shore convenient for their fishery. However, they provided for the care of their crops by leaving one of their number with their wives. Indeed, this practice still persists. One can presently see in a number of places along the Bay the inhabitants leave their so called winter houses to spend the summer at the shore near their fishery. Thus, Mr. Collins was mistaken in stating that there was there only some small cabins on an uncultivated sandbar.

Secondly, I submit that Mr. Holland had no right to take lands possessed by poor settlers.

Reason alone should tell us that one is not permitted to despoil another of his possessions and appropriate them. Moreover, Mr. Holland had his lands surveyed only in 1766 while it was in 1762/63 that the King had published the permission given to Acadians to settle in Bay Chaleur. In so doing did the King not grant to the Acadians an incontestable right of settlement? By so doing should the King not defend the Acadians in their right to the lands they occupied?

No one should be rewarded for his services with lands occupied by the Acadians

By virtue of the King's Proclamation it is manifest that no one could seize their lands and it is manifest also that as a consequence of the Proclamation of the King the Acadians had the right to take lands in Bay Chaleur. I also believe, Gentlemen, that it is manifest we have the right to title for our lands.

On what basis did Mr. Holland seize our possessions? What was his authority? He himself has said that he had none but that he hoped to have. I ask you, whose cause is the more just, his or ours? He who has paid only a modest fee for these lands or We who have lost so much sweat and spent so much money in developing our lands and mills.

The good or bad fortune of a number of families depends on your judgment. Fifty or sixty families are in our situation. However, they hope that Québec Law will be as favourable to them as the New Brunswick Law was

to the Acadians settled under that Government, by granting to them title to their lands without difficulty, by virtue of the King's Proclamation, despite the pretensions of a number of Seigniors.

Louis Bourdages

On the back of this Mémoire are the following notations: Mémoire proving the right of the Widow Bourdages to title for her lands. 1788. Mr. Bourdages delivered this paper at the board on the 11th January, after having been heard; it was read - The proceedings noted on the minutes.

This claim of Louis Bourdages was referred to the Land Committee (composed of Messrs. Pinlay, Collins, Grant, de Saint-Curs and de Lanaudière) who made the following report:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITION OF LOUIS BOURDAGES

The committee has read the Petition of Louis Bourdages and also the Mémoire accompanying it.

These documents show -

- . That the Widow Bourdages, mother of the petitioner, possesses a lot thirty acres in front by sixty in depth near the beach at Bonaventure in Bay Chaleur, which land has been cleared and is cultivated.
- . That Major Holland claims, by virtue of a Crown grant, 500 acres of the land possessed by the father of M. Bourdages in 1763 following a Proclamation of His Majesty, published in Bay Chaleur, assuring Acadians settling in this part of the country that they would become proprietors of Crown land which they settled and improved.
- . Last December the committee asked M. Bourdages to produce a copy of this Proclamation but he has not done so and submits that it can no longer be procured. He states that it was published by Mr. Walker, Justice of the Peace, living at Nipisiquit, Nova Scotia ( now New Brunswick.)
- . That in accordance with a survey order issued to him by order of General Murray in 1765, the Deputy Surveyor General ( John Collins) prepared a plan of lands surveyed at Bonaventure. His report shows no house or hut on the 500 acres shown on the plan in the name of Major Holland. This report was deposited at the Council on August 12, 1766.

The committee notes that the petitioner stressed the strong support and encouragement that the Acadians received verbally from His Majesty's Government to settle on lands in Bay Chaleur.

In his request to Your Excellency he submitted, "Your Excellency graciously replied to us that we could work without fear of trouble and that our work would serve as contact; moreover the Bishop of Québec, Mgr. Brillant, told us that we could work our lands in confidence and that we had no other Saignier but the King".

The committee has the honour to ascribe respectfully that even if Your Excellency, graciously gave such permission to the wandering Acadians, they were in the wrong, as by virtue of this permission, they settled on lands already granted; they should have sought out waste lands of the Crown. In his request the petitioner pretends that his father worked the land long before the 500 acres were granted to Major Holland. In consequence he asks that the lands that were cleared and cultivated be granted to his mother, namely thirty acres frontage by sixty acres in depth, together with the right of banalité for the grist mill built on their land at the urgent request of the inhabitants of Bonaventure.

The committee cannot advise Your Excellency to grant this request in the absence of Major Holland, who is in England, particularly in view of the fact that his agent (his son) declares that he cannot give the committee any information on this matter, but says that the land claimed by the Widow Bourdages has always been considered the indisputable property of his father.

M. de Saint-Ours desires that his opinion be conveyed to Your Excellency as follows: "If the Mémoire of M. Bourdages and the explanations contained in his request are factual and can be proved, right to the lands claimed is indiscutable"

#### AS TIME PASSED-AN ELUSIVE SETTLEMENT

On July 14, 1788, not having received an answer to his Petition, Louis Bourdages wrote again to the land committee pointing out that the delay was prejudicial to him. Again, in September 1789, he requested Lord Dorchester to advise him if Major Holland had given reasons why he objected to the petitioner obtaining title. A new request was made to Lord Dorchester in March, 1791 as Bourdage had not been able to obtain



justice. The committee forwarded this request to Lieut.-Gov. Cox of Gaspé who took the position that he knew nothing of the matter. With reason Bourdage complained of the slowness of the committee and the tort he experienced.

Four years later, in 1795, several of the Bonaventure settlers, including the Widow Bourdages and three of her sons, took action to advance their claims - this time in a petition to the new Lieut.-Gov. of Gaspé, Col. Francis LeMaistre ( Ref. CASPE OF YESTERDAY - "COL. FRANCIS LE MAISTRE - SPEC. 15/11/79) Col. LeMaistre wrote to Lord Dorchester, forwarding the petition, and supporting it with the suggestion that the land in dispute be ceded back to the Crown by Major Holland et al. It could then be regranted to the settlers of Bonaventure who, in his opinion, "were good and loyal subjects of His Majesty".

This new request was referred to the committee in November, 1795. Hugh Finlay, who was one of the grantees at Bonaventure, was President of the land committee, and it was at his request that the matter was put before a plenary meeting of the Council in December. The result was an order that Col. LeMaistre's letter be communicated to Messrs Finlay, Holland and the executor of the estate of the late John Collins so as to determine their titles. There was evidently some action behind the scene for a few days later these gentlemen announced to the Secretary of the Council that they were prepared to renounce their claims to the lands in dispute at Bonaventure. Naturally, they expected compensation.

It was not until twenty five years later, in 1825, that the matter was settled and the settlers at Bonaventure given title to their lands. The role of Louis Bourdages in this long, painful struggle to obtain justice had, without doubt, a profound influence on his distinguished career.

## EDUCATION AND EARLY CAREER

The pillage of the Bourdage establishment at Bonaventure brought to an end, in traumatic fashion, the first decade of a happy childhood for Louis Bourdages on the shores of Bay Thabour. However, he was destined for a role in his personal life and that of Québec above and beyond Gaspesia. His mother, Esther LeBlanc Bourdages, a daughter of the Notary Royal of Mines in Acadia, René LeBlanc, would have insisted that Louis have a sound primary education and it is indicative of the respect of the family for learning that he was sent to study at and graduate from the noted Séminaire de Québec.

On completing his education at Québec Louis Bourdages turned for a time to the sea and prior to 1799 sailed on a number of voyages to the West Indies, Europe and other lands, thus gaining both knowledge and invaluable experience.

It was in October, 1798 that Louis Bourdages married at Québec Louise Catherine, daughter of Dr. Charles Simon Soupirant and went to settle on a farm at St. Denis-sur-Richelieu. There in addition to his role as farmer he studied and was commissioned as a Notary Public in 1805. The degree of public respect and confidence that he acquired was reflected in his election as member of Richelieu County in the Québec Legislative Assembly.

## POLITICAL CAREER

In the Québec Legislative Assembly Louis Bourdages soon rose to prominence through his active participation and firm stand on the many burning issues of the day. He chose to support Pierre-Stanislas Bédard in the growing conflict between the elected Assembly and the appointed Governor and Executive. He joined other members of the Assembly in the founding of the journal, LE CANADIEN, but unlike Bédard escaped being thrown into jail by an angry Governor. He fought to have deputies who lived at a distance from Québec indemnified for attendance at Assembly sessions and campaigned long and hard to have judges removed from membership in the Assembly. Of his opposition to Governor Sir James Craig and his colleagues, Audet has given the following vivid word picture of Louis Bourdages in action in the Québec Assembly - "...Aussi, ses discours s'en ressentent-ils lorsqu'il était témoin des procédés cavaliers et révoltants de Craig et de ses satellites envers le peuple canadien

et ces représentants dans l'assemblée. Dans ces moments-là, l'honnête et paisible notaire de village se transformait; il faisait place au représentant indigné de la nation que l'on voulait opprimer. La colère du tribun était grande, sa voix se faisait sonore comme pour commander au tumulte de l'Océan, et son indignation ne connaissant plus de bornes..."

#### THE 1812-1814 WAR

Louis Bourdages, appreciating the military tradition of his late father, Raymond, was an officer of the Richelieu County militia from 1796. On the eve of the War of 1812-1814 with the Americans the Governor-General, Sir George Prevost proceeded to promote and strengthen the militia in anticipation of invasion of Québec from the United States. In March 1812 Louis Bourdages was promoted to Major and in November of that year his Richelieu Battalion was called out for training and military exercises. In January 1813 Major Bourdages received promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and later in that year his Richelieu Battalion received the call to active service. Raymond, son of Louis Bourdages, served as pay-master of the Battalion.

The American invaders who believed that the French Canadians would welcome them with open arms as liberators suffered from illusion. Determined to defend their Québec homeland the Richelieu Battalion was part of the force that defeated the Americans in the campaign immortalized by the victory of Col. de Salaberry at Chateauguay.

In 1814 Sir George Prevost appointed Lieut.-Col. Louis Bourdages as the Superintendent of Post Houses established for the accommodation of travellers and maintenance of the postal routes of the province. From 1814-1820 he was not a member of the Québec Assembly.



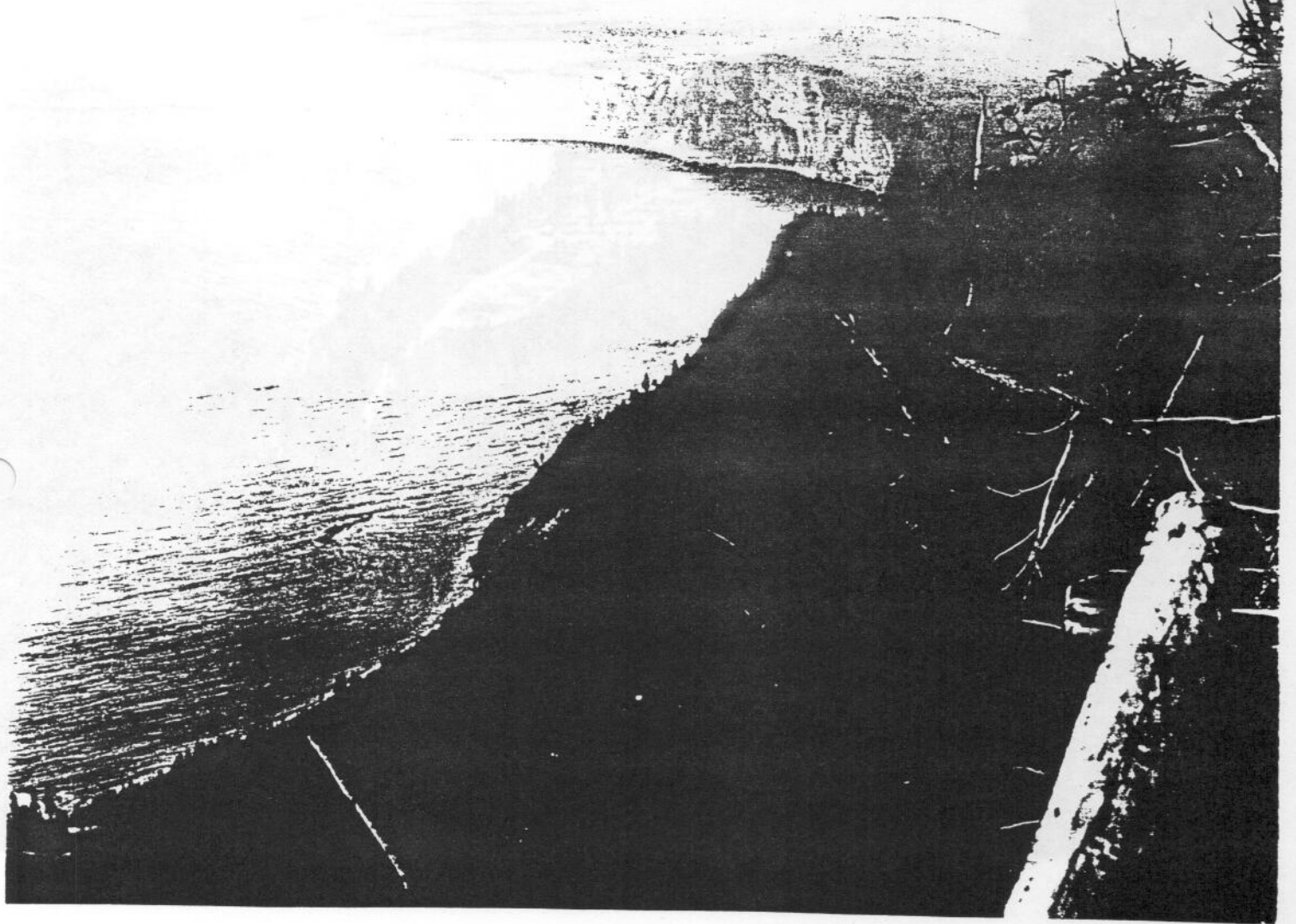
### AGAIN INTO THE POLITICAL FRAY

Louis Bourdages returned to the Québec Legislative Assembly as the Member for Buckinghamshire (Micheliou) in 1898 and was seen in the thick of the burning political issue of the 1890's - the proposed union of Lower and Upper Canada. In association with such other prominent members as Louis Juy, Denis-Benjamin Viger, Louis-Joseph Papineau and John Neilson he fought to prevent such union and eventually the project was shelved.

In the Spring of 1898 Louis Bourdages' wife, Louise Catherine Despirant Bourdages died. They had been married for forty years and had raised at Saint-Denis-sur-Micheliou a family of three sons and five daughters.

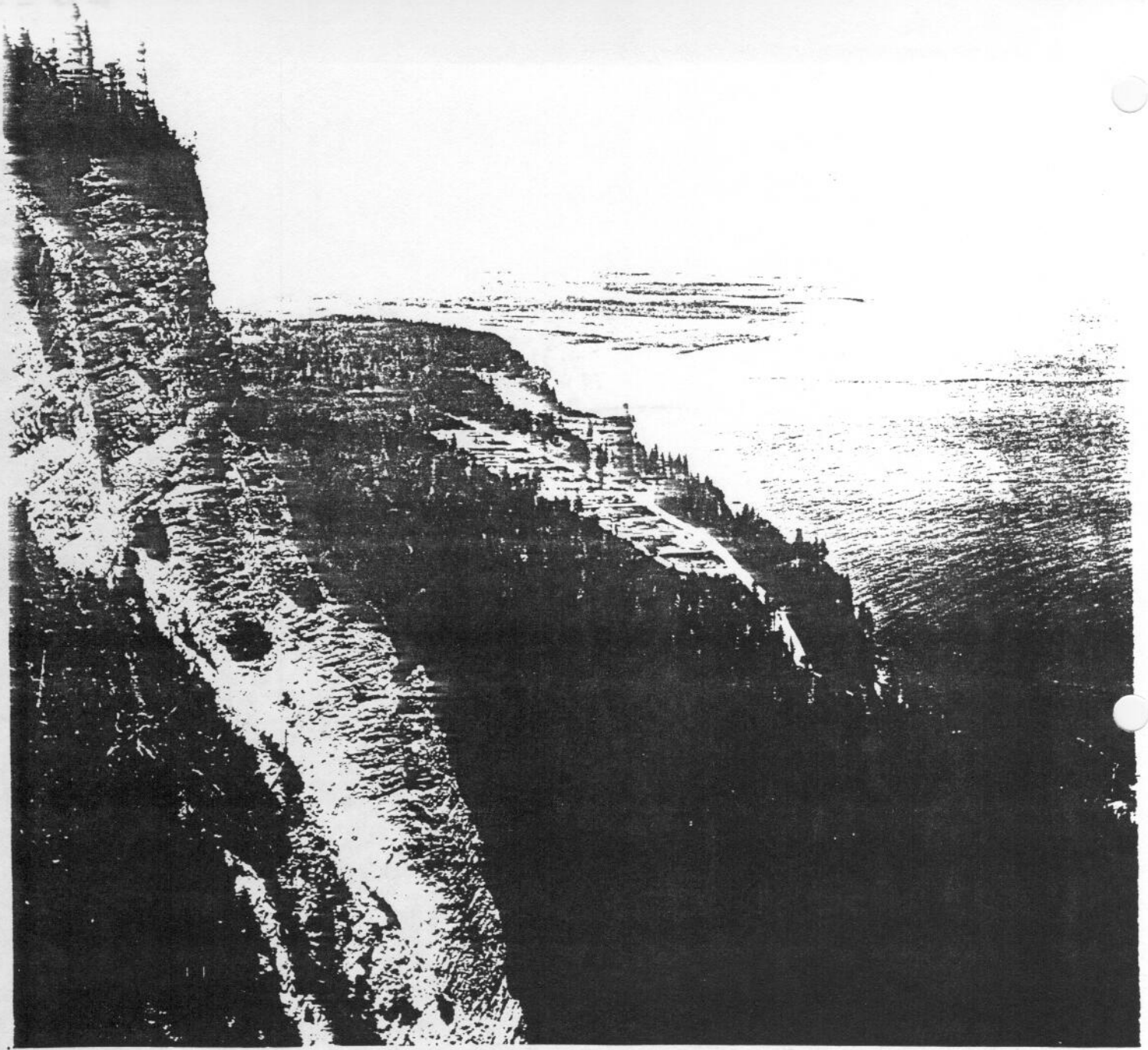
Québec was growing and changing. In 1890 the vast electoral district of Buckinghamshire was divided into six new counties: Yamaska, Drummond, Nicolet, Lotbinière, Sherbrooke and Mégantic. In the general election of that year Louis Bourdages was returned as the Member for Nicolet. He was again returned in the elections of 1894 but his health was failing and in January 20, 1895 he died.

As Dean of the Members of the Legislative Assembly many tributes were paid to the memory of Louis Bourdages. The newspaper, LA MINERVE, said, in part: "...If there is a death that should plunge the country in mourning, it is that that we weep over now. The memory of the Dean will live on eternally in the hearts of his ever appreciative compatriots. Remembrance of his services will never be forgotten ...The country has always counted him among the number of its most honest, able and faithful servants, both in times of peace and strife. His parliamentary conduct was always marked by the purest patriotism. ...In his private life he was distinguished for honesty and probity ever..."



• FORILLON - RUGGED GULF CLIFFS.

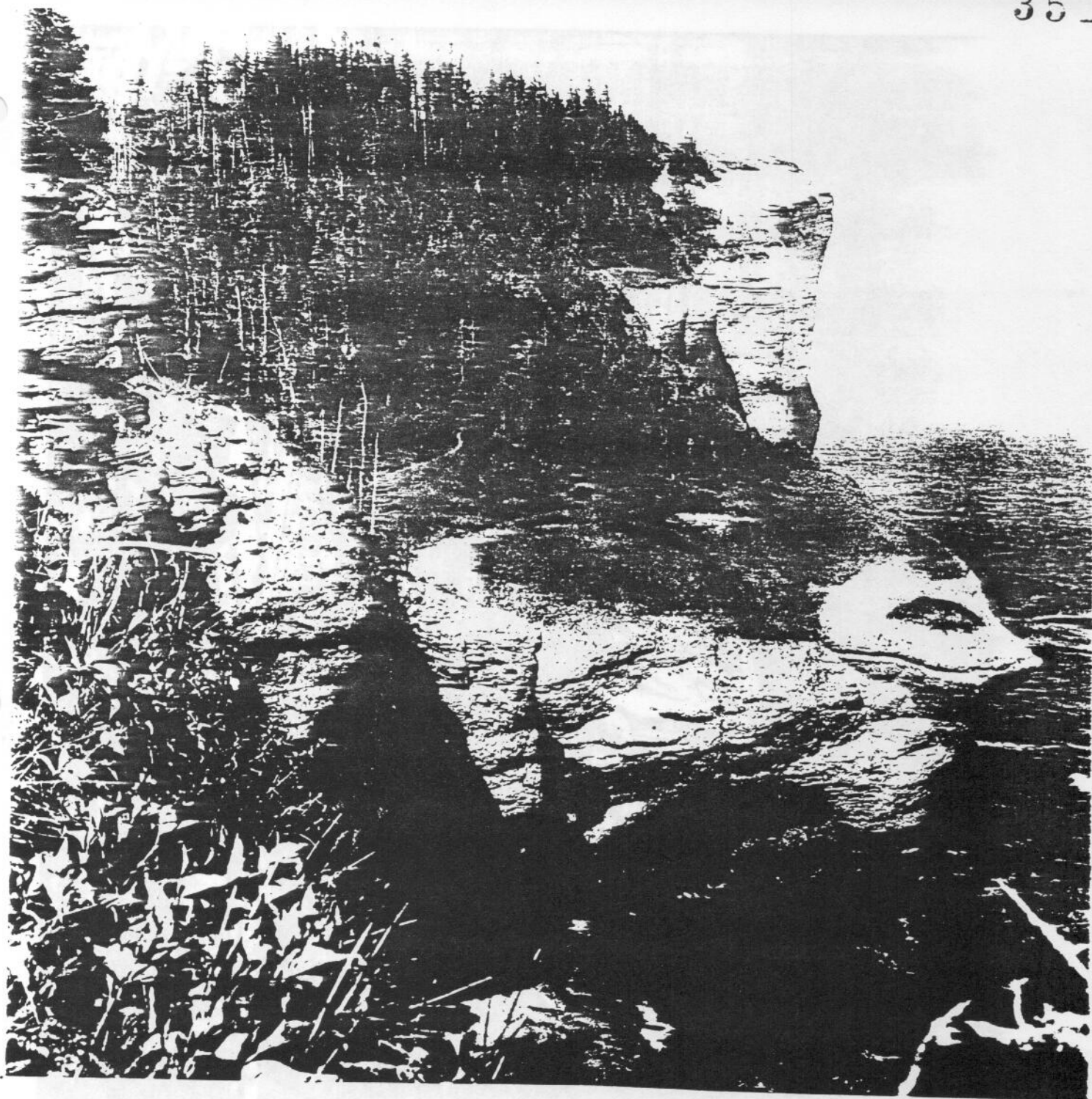
Courtesy Parks Canada.



A VIEW WESTWARD TO CAP DES ROSIERS.

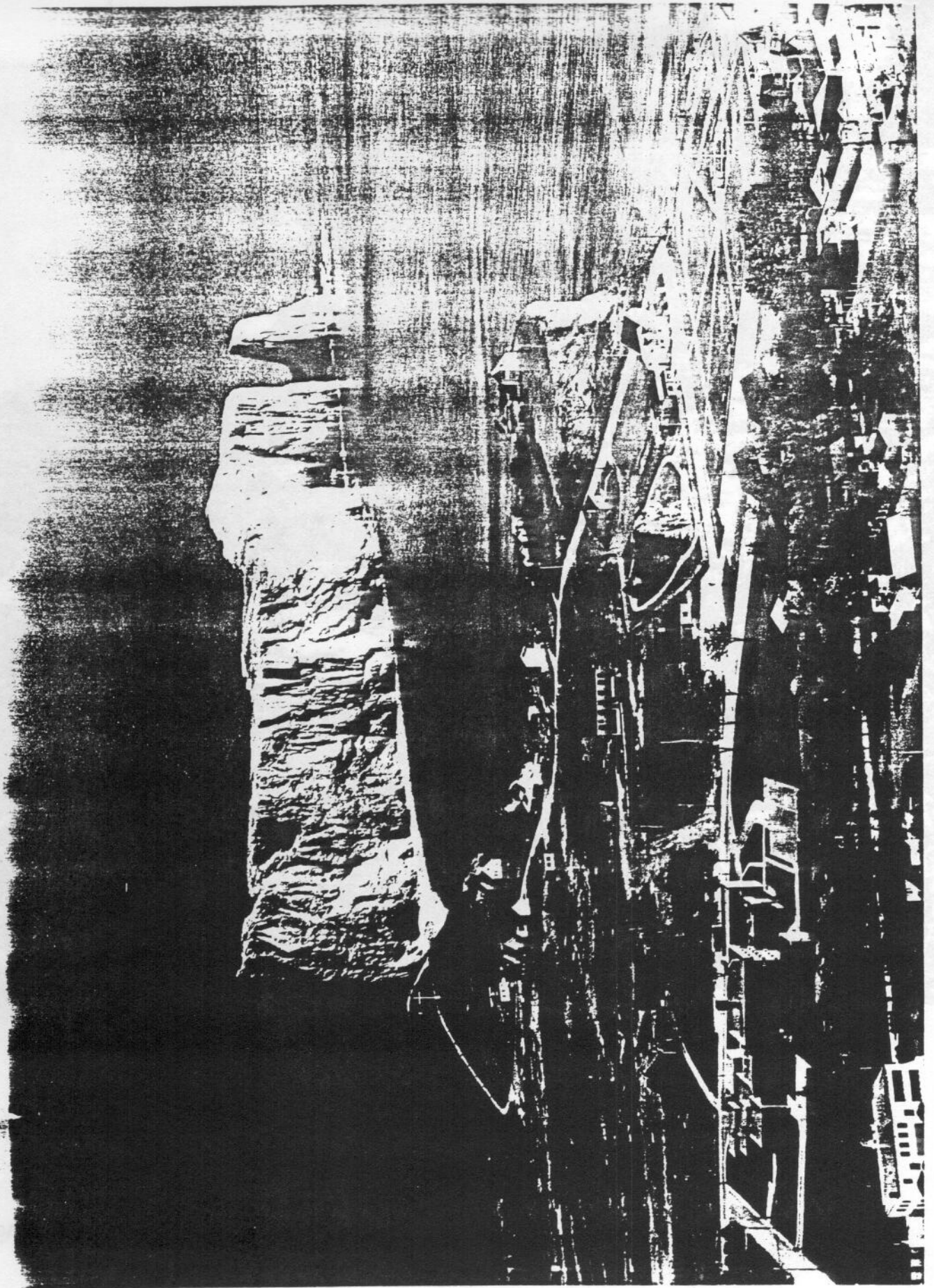
Courtesy Parks Canada.





FORILLON - WHERE LAND AND SEA MEET.

Courtesy Parks Canada.



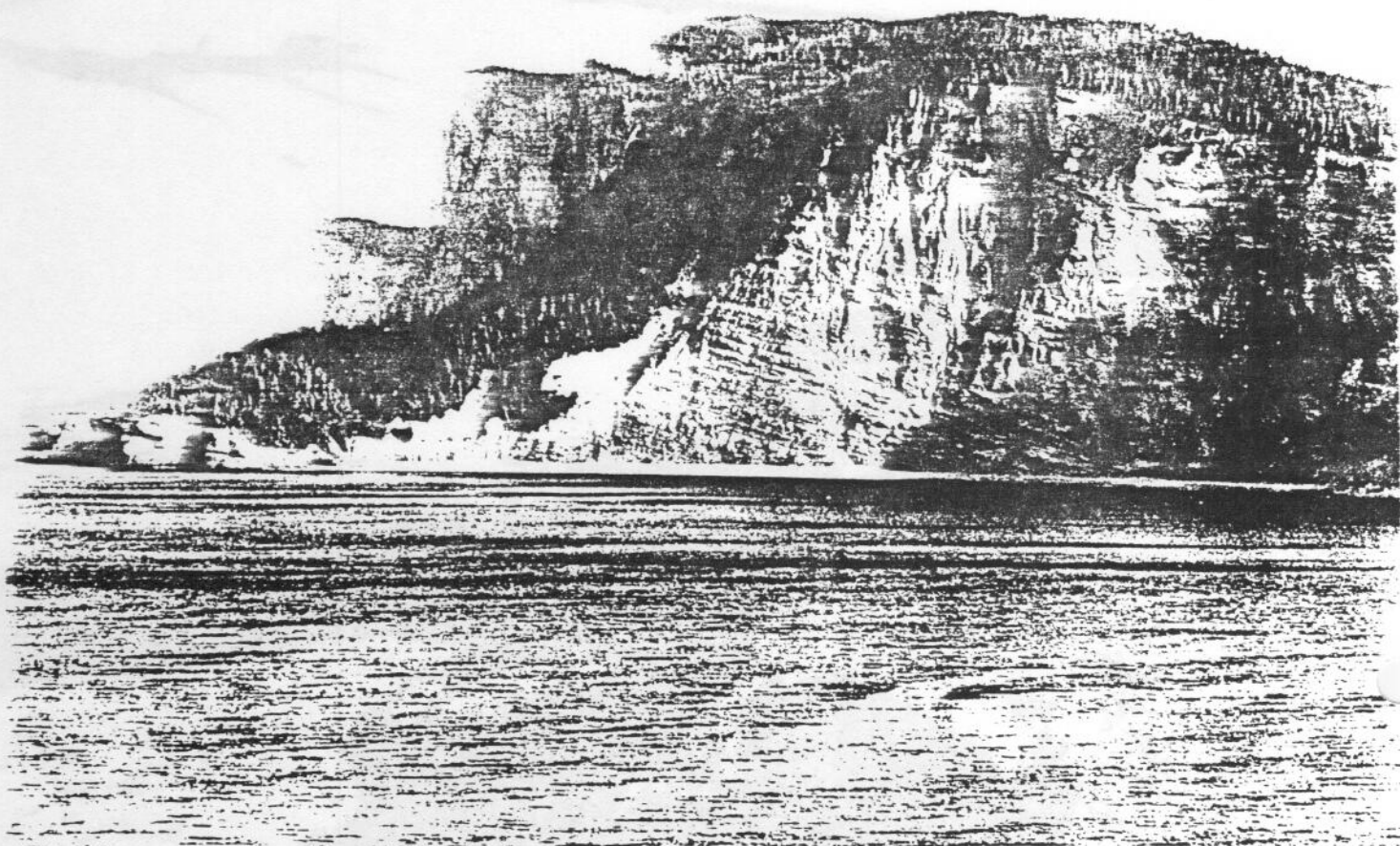




WINTER SCENE OFF FORILLON SHORE

Courtesy Parks Canada





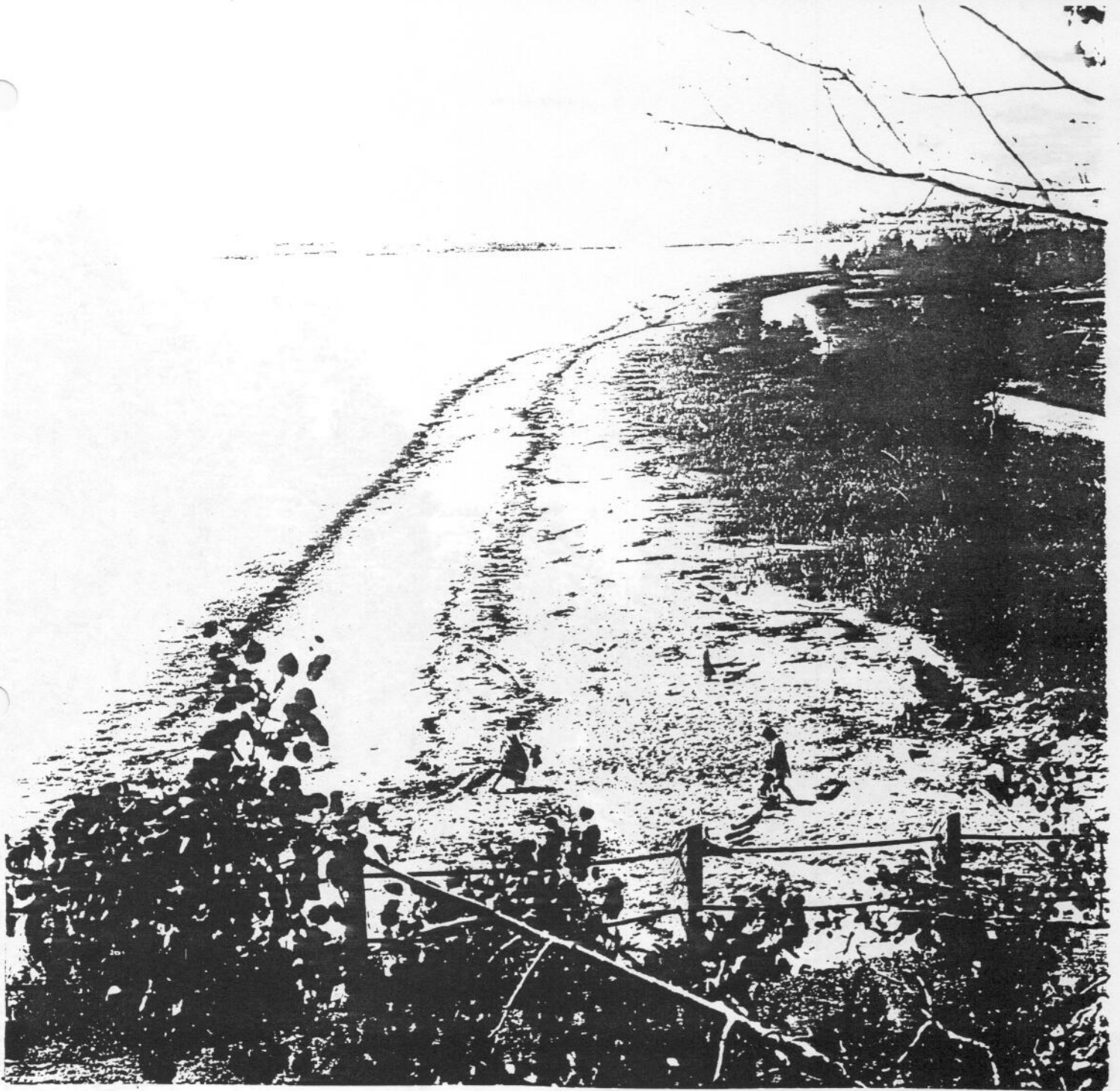
GASPÉ CLIFFS

The Eagle

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.  
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watches from his mountain walls;  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Alfred Tennyson.

Courtesy Parks Canada.



PENINSULA POINT - SEAWARD BEACH.

Courtesy Parks Canada.



ROAD FROM THE GULF TO GASPÉ BAY.

Courtesy Parks Canada.



# Parc national Forillon Forillon National Park

Sentiers d'excursion Back packing trails	Distance	Temps/time
Les Lacs	16 km	6 h
Les Crêtes	16.9 km	6 h

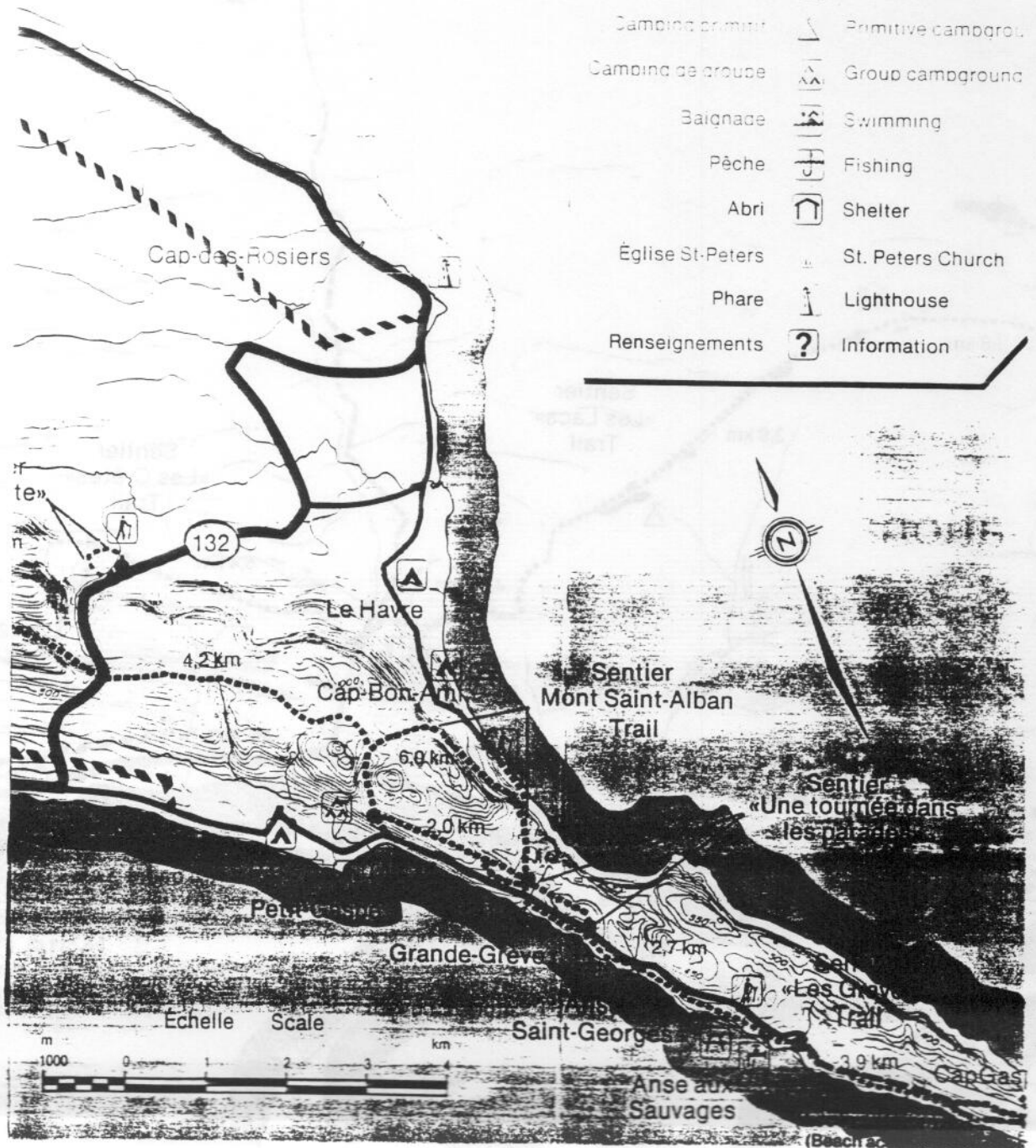
  

Sentiers de marche Hiking trails	Distance	Temps/time
Mont-Saint-Alban	4.2 km	2h30
La Chûte	6.0 km	2h30
Les Graves	3.6 km	2h

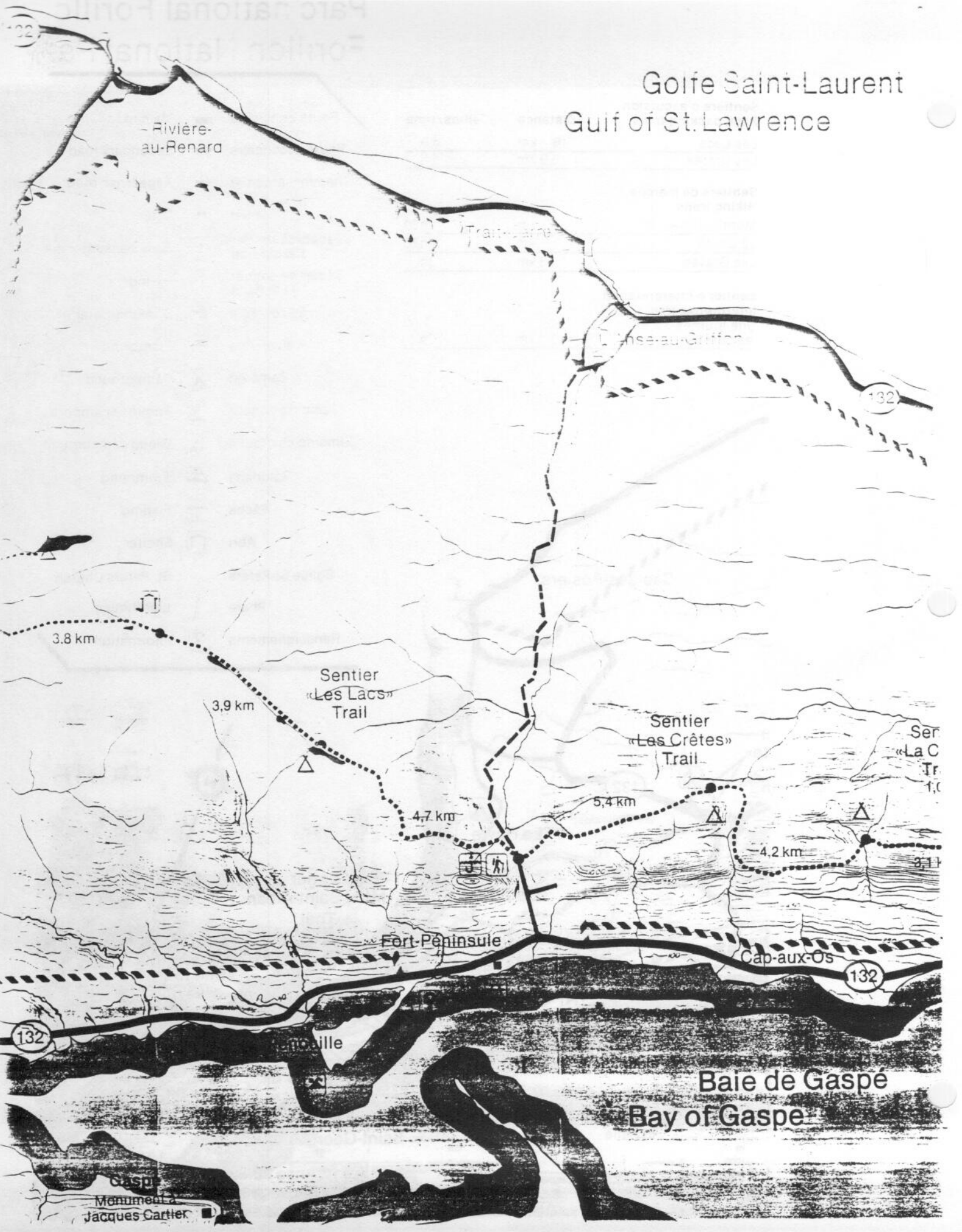
  

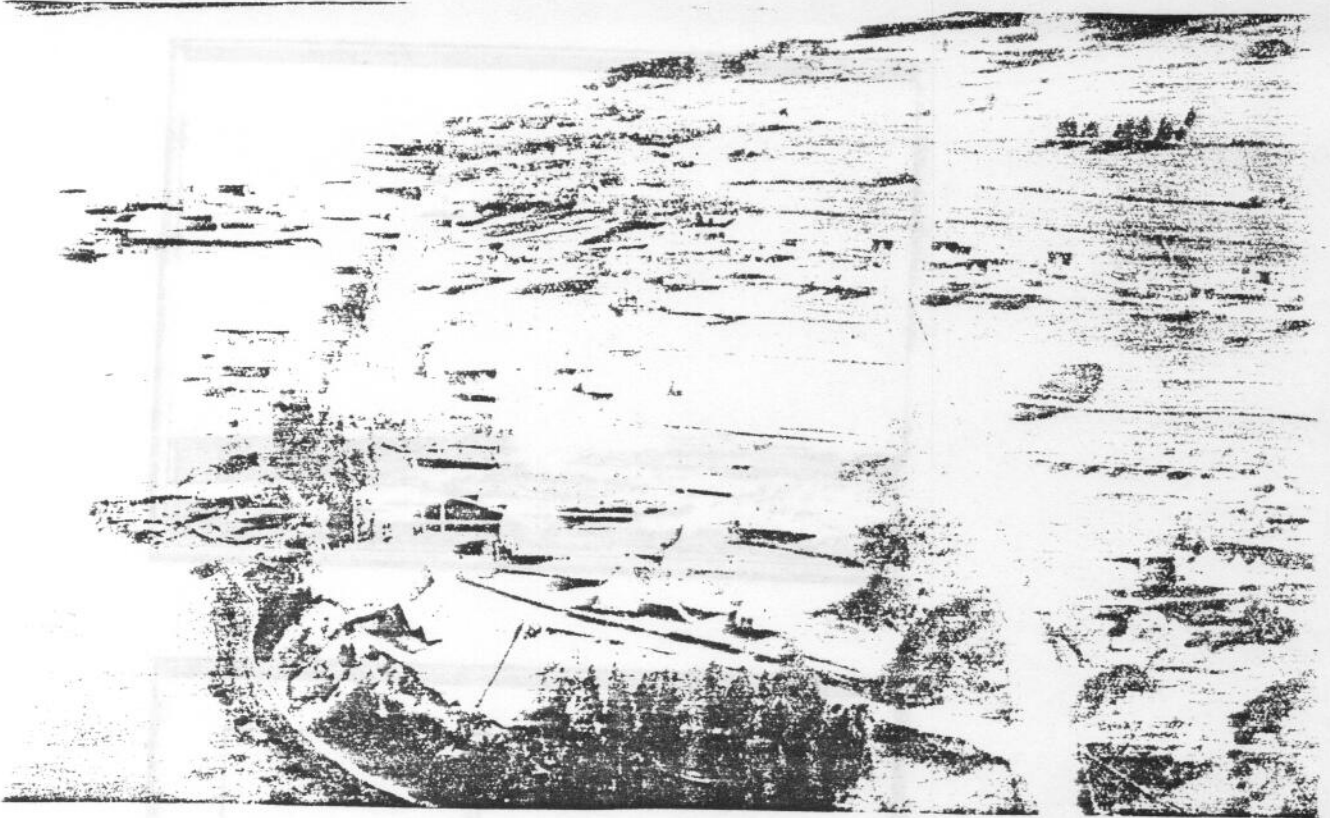
Sentier d'interprétation Interpretive trail	Distance	Temps/time
Une tournée dans les parades	3.1 km	2h

Route principale		Main road
Route secondaire		Secondary road
Chemin piétonnier		Pedestrian road
Sentier		Trail
Départ de sentier d'excursion		Back packing trail
Départ de sentier de marche		Hiking
Eau potable		Drinking water
Pique-nique		Picnicking
Camping		Campground
Camping primitif		Primitive campground
Camping de groupe		Group campground
Baignade		Swimming
Pêche		Fishing
Abri		Shelter
Église St-Peters		St. Peters Church
Phare		Lighthouse
Renseignements		Information



# Golfe Saint-Laurent Gulf of St. Lawrence





VIEWS OF GASPE OF YESTERDAY



