

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Tuesday, the Fifteenth day of February, 1825, in the Sixth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith &c. &c. being the Fifth Session of the Twelfth General Assembly, convened in the said Province.

6 George IV – Chapter 21

An Act to authorise the Incorporation of a Company for erecting a Bridge across Cornwallis River.

Whereas, the bridge lately built across the Cornwallis River, between the townships of Cornwallis and Horton, in King's County, at the fords of the said river, a short distance above the townplot of Cornwallis, hath been carried away and destroyed by the floods and currents of the said river: and whereas, the erection of a substantial bridge across the said river will be of great advantage to the inhabitants of the said township, and it is therefore expedient to encourage, by corporate privilege, such persons as are willing to engage in such undertaking:

I. Be it enacted by the President, Council and Assembly, that, whenever a sufficient number of persons shall have associated themselves together, for erecting and building a bridge over Cornwallis River aforesaid, and agreed to raise sufficient monies for that purpose, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being, at any time within ten years from the passing hereof, by letters patent under the great seal of the province, to make, erect and incorporate, all and singular the persons who, from time to time, shall be adventurers in, or parties to, the said undertaking, or have any share or interest in the capital or joint stock of the said association, and their and every of their assigns respectively, into one body, politic and corporate, in deed and in name, under the title of the Cornwallis Bridge Company, and by that name to have succession, to sue and be sued, to have a common seal, and to possess and enjoy such powers, with respect to choosing a president and other officers, making bye-laws, and regulating the affairs of the said company, as in such letters patent shall be expressed.

II. And be it further enacted, that the said company, when so incorporated, shall be, and they are hereby declared and made, capable in law to have, hold, purchase, possess, enjoy and retain, lands, rents, and tenements, and monies, goods and chattles, to any amount not exceeding in the whole ten thousand pounds, including the cost or value of the bridge, and the same to sell, grant, demise, or otherwise dispose of, at their free will and pleasure; and further, to meet together when and so often as they shall see fit; and also, to make, establish and put in execution, such bye-laws, rules, and regulations, as may be necessary for making and erecting the said bridge, and all works connected therewith, maintaining and keeping up the same, for levying assessments and for governing the company. Provided, the same be in no case repugnant to the laws of this province.

III. And be it further enacted, that in such letters patent shall be granted and contained all such other powers, privileges, authorities and immunities, in regard to the making, sustaining and repairing, the intended bridge, for rendering the same beneficial and useful, and for managing and conducting the said corporation, as are commonly granted to such companies, and as shall appear to the Governor and His Majesty's council proper and expedient.

IV. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said company, when so incorporated, to make, erect and build, over and across the said river, and either on the scite of the bridge which was destroyed as aforesaid, or at any other convenient place above or below the same, or opposite to or above the town of Cornwallis aforesaid, a good and sufficient bridge, of such size and dimensions, and of such materials, and with such and so many piers and abutments, and in such way and manner, as shall be proper, safe and convenient, for the passage of passengers, cattle and carriages, of all descriptions, and at all times across and over the same; and according to such plan and method as the said company shall think proper or expedient; and the same bridge to alter, change, renew, amend, repair and sustain, as the said company shall think fit.

V. And be it further enacted, that the said bridge, so to be erected or renewed, and all the piers, abutments, approaches, outlets, entrances and apputtenances thereof, and all lands or other property, purchased or obtained for the said bridge, or as appurtenant thereto, shall be, and the same are hereby vested in, and declared and made the sole and exclusive property of, the said company, for and during the term of fifty years from the date of the said letters patent.

VI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that a way and passage in, upon and over, the said bridge, and the approaches, outlets and entrances, thereof, shall be at all convenient times and seasons free and open to all His Majesty's subjects, with their cattle and carriages, upon payment or tender of such reasonable toll or pass-money, as shall from time to time be fixed and allowed therefor by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief, by and with the advice and consent of His Majesty's council. And provided always, that His Majesty's troops or embodied militia, with their munitions of war and baggage, on their march, shall always be exempt from such toll.

VII. And be it further enacted, that the piers, abutments, covering timber and materials, now remaining of the bridge lately erected over the said river, and destroyed as aforesaid, shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be, assigned to, and vested in, the said company, upon the issuing of the said letters patent, as and for their own property.

VII. Provided always, and be it lastly enacted, that the said intended bridge shall be erected, and completed, within five years from the date of the said letters patent; and be kept and maintained at all times in good and sufficient repair, during the continuance of the toll hereby authorised to be levied.