

*The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the second session of the ninth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada.* Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1818.

58 George III – Chapter 23

**An Act to authorize François Verrault, Esquire, to build a Toll-Bridge over the River Chaudière, in the Parish of Sainte-Marie de la Nouvelle-Beauce, near the Church of the said Parish, in the County of Dorchester. (1st April, 1818.)**

Whereas the erection of a Bridge over the River Chaudière, in the Parish of Sainte Marie, Nouvelle Beauce, near the Church of the said Parish in the County of Dorchester, would materially augment the convenience and facility of the intercourse of the inhabitants of the adjacent parishes and concessions and of the public at large; And whereas François Verrault, Esquire, of the parish aforesaid in the Country aforesaid, by his petition in that behalf, hath prayed leave to erect a toll bridge over the said river Chaudière: May it therefore please your majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the King's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower-Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of, and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the government of the Province of Quebec, in North America;' and to make further provision for the government of the said Province;" And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that it shall be lawful to and for the said François Verrault, and he is hereby authorized and empowered, at his own costs and charges, to erect and build a good and substantial Bridge, over the said river Chaudière, near the Church of the said parish of Sainte Marie Nouvelle Beauce, and to erect or build one toll-house and turnpike with other dependencies, on or near the said bridge, and also to do perform and execute all other matters and things requisite and necessary, useful or convenient for erecting and building, maintaining and supporting the said intended bridge, toll-house, turnpike, and other dependencies, according to the tenor and true meaning of this Act; and further, that for the purpose of erecting, building, maintaining, or supporting the said bridge, the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, and the persons by him or them employed, doing as little damage as may be, and making reasonable and just satisfaction to the respective owners and occupiers of all such lands and grounds, as shall be altered, damaged or made use of, for the value of such lands as well as for that of the alteration or of the damages which they may cause to the proprietors, by means of or for the purpose of erecting the said bridge, and the said house as above designated; and in case of difference of opinion and dispute about the quantum of such satisfaction, the same shall be settled by His Majesty's Court of King's Bench, of and for the District of Quebec, after a previous visitation, examination and estimation of the premises shall have been made, by Experts, to be named by the parties, respectively: and in default of such nomination, by them or either of them, then by the said Court, in manner and form prescribed by Law; and the said Court is hereby authorized and empowered to hear, settle, and finally determine the amount of such compensation, in consequence. Provided always, that the said François Verrault, his heirs or successors, shall not commence the erection of the said bridge and other works by which any person may be deprived of his land or of part thereof, or may suffer damage before the price or value of the said land and

damages estimated and settled in the manner before prescribed, shall have been paid to such person, or after such price or value shall have been offered to him, or that on his refusal, the said François Verrault, shall have deposited it, at the office of the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench for the District of Quebec.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said bridge and the said Toll-House, Turnpike and dependencies to be erected thereon, or near thereto, and also the ascents or approaches to the said Bridge, and all materials which shall be, from time to time, gotten or provided, for erecting, building or making, maintaining or repairing the same, shall be vested in the said François Verrault, his heirs and assigns for ever. Provided, that after the expiration of fifty years to be accounted from the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, his heirs and successors, to assume the possession and property of the said bridge, toll-house, turnpike and dependencies, and the ascents and approaches thereto, upon paying to the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators, or assigns, the full and entire value which the same may at the time of such assumption, bear and be worth, and when and so soon as the bridge shall be erected and built, and made fit and proper for the passage of travellers, cattle and carriages, and that the same shall be certified by any two or more Justices of the Peace, for the District of Quebec, after examination thereof, by three experts, to be appointed and sworn by the said Justices of the Peace, and be advertised in the Quebec Gazette, it shall be lawful for the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, from time to time, and at all times, to ask, demand, receive, recover and take toll, and for their own proper use and behoof, for pontage, as or in the name of a toll or duty, before any passage over the said bridge shall be permitted, the several sums following, that is to say: for every coach, or other four wheeled carriage, loaded or unloaded, with the driver and four persons, or less, drawn by two or more horses, or other beasts of draught, two shillings, currency; for every waggon, or other four wheeled carriage, loaded, or unloaded, one shilling and four pence currency; for every chaise, calash, chair with two wheels, or cariole, or other such carriage, loaded or unloaded, with the driver and two persons or less, drawn by two horses or other beasts of draught, one shilling and two pence, currency; and drawn by one horse or other beast of draught, ten pence, currency; for every cart, sled, or other such carriage, loaded or unloaded, drawn by two horses, oxen, or other beasts of draught, with the drivers, seven-pence, currency; and drawn by one horse or other beasts of draught, six-pence, currency; for every person on foot one penny, currency; for every horse, mare, mule, or other beast of draught, laden or unladed, three-pence, currency; for every person on horseback, three-pence, currency; for every bull, ox, cow, and all other horned and neat cattle, two pence, half-penny, currency; for every hog, goat, sheep, calf or lamb, one-penny, currency.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that, no person, horse or carriage employed in conveying a Mail or Letters under the authority of his Majesty's Post-office, nor the horses, or carriages, laden or not laden; and drivers attending officers and soldiers of His Majesty's forces, or of the militia, whilst upon their march or on duty, nor the said officers or soldiers, or any of them, nor carriages and drivers or guards sent with prisoners of any description, shall be chargeable with any toll or rate whatsoever. Provided also, that it shall and may be lawful for the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators, or assigns, to diminish the said tolls, or any of them, and afterwards if he or they shall see fit again to augment the same, or any of them, so as not to exceed in any case the rates herein before authorized to be taken. Provided also, that the said François Verrault,

his heirs, executors, curators, or assigns, to diminish the said tolls, or any of them, and afterwards if he or they shall see fit again to augment the same, or any of them, so as not to exceed in any case the rates herein before authorized to be taken. Provided also, that the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators, or assigns, shall affix, or cause to be affixed, in some conspicuous place, at or near such toll-gate, a table of the rates payable for passing over the said bridge; and so often as such rates may be diminished or augmented, he or they shall cause such alteration to be affixed in manner aforesaid.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said tolls, shall be, and the same are hereby vested in the said François Verrault, his heirs and assigns, for ever. Provided, that if His Majesty shall, in the manner herein-before mentioned, after the expiration of fifty years, from the passing of this Act, assume the possession and property of the said bridge, toll-house, turnpike and dependencies, and the ascents and approaches thereto, then the said tolls shall, from the time of such assumption, appertain and belong to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, who shall from thence-forward be substituted in the place and stead of the said François Verrault, his heirs and assigns, for all and every the purposes of this Act.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person shall forcibly pass through the said turnpike, without paying the toll or any part thereof, or shall interrupt or disturb the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns, or any person or persons employed by him or them, for building or repairing the said bridge, or making or repairing the way over the same, or any road or avenue leading thereto, every person, in each of the cases aforesaid, shall, for every such offence, forfeit a sum not exceeding twenty shillings currency.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that as soon as the said bridge shall be passable and opened for the use of the public, no person or persons shall erect, or cause to be erected, any bridge or bridges, or works, or use any ferry for the carriage of any persons, cattle or carriages whatsoever, for hire, across the said river Chaudière, within half a league above the said bridge, and below the said bridge; and if any person or persons shall erect a toll bridge or toll bridges over the said river Chaudière, he or they shall pay to the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, treble the tolls hereby imposed, for the persons cattle and carriages which shall pass over such bridge or bridges; and if any person or persons shall, at any time, for hire or gain, pass or convey any person or persons, cattle, or carriages, across the said River Chaudière, within the said limits aforesaid, such offender or offenders shall, for each person, carriage or animal so carried across, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding forty shillings currency. Provided, that nothing in this Act contained, shall be construed to prevent the public from passing any of the fords in the said river Chaudière, or in canoes, without gain or hire.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person shall maliciously pull down, burn, or destroy the said bridge, or any part thereof, or the toll-house to be erected by virtue of this Act, every person so offending, and being thereof legally convicted, shall be deemed guilty of felony.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said François Verrault, to entitle himself to the benefits and advantages to him, by this Act granted shall and he is hereby required to

erect and complete the said bridge, toll house, turnpike and dependencies within five years from the day of the passing of this Act; and convenient and safe passage over the said bridge, he the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators, and assigns, shall cease to have any right, title or claim of, in or to the tolls hereby imposed, which shall, from thence-forward belong to His Majesty; and the said François Verrault, shall not by the said tolls, or in any other manner or way, be entitled to any reimbursement of the expenses he may incurred in and about the building of the said Bridges; and in case the said bridge after it shall have been erected and completed, shall at any time become impassable or unsafe for travellers, cattle or carriages, he the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns, shall and they are hereby required, within two years from the time at which the said bridge shall, by His Majesty's Court of General Quarter Session of the Peace, in and for the said District of Quebec, be ascertained to be impassable or unsafe, and notice thereof to him or them by the said Court given, to cause the same to be rebuilt or repaired, and made safe and commodious for the passage of travellers, cattle and carriages; and if within the time last mentioned, the said bridge be not so repaired, or rebuilt, as the case may require, then the said bridge or such part or parts thereof, as shall be remaining, shall be and be taken, and be considered to be the property of His Majesty; and after such default to repair or rebuild the said bridge, the said François Verrault, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns shall cease to have any right, title or claim, of, in, to or out of the said bridge, or the remaining parts thereof, and the tolls hereby granted, and his and their rights in the premises, shall be wholly and forever determined.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the present Act or any thing therein contained, shall not extend or be construed to extend to weaken, diminish or extinguish the rights and privileges of His Majesty the King, his heirs and successors, nor of any persons, body politic or corporate in any of the things therein-mentioned, (except as to the power and authority hereby given to the said François Verrault, his heirs and assigns, and except as to the rights which are hereby expressly altered or extinguished) but that his Majesty the King, his heirs and successors, and all and every person or persons, body politic or corporate, their heirs and assigns, executors and administrators, shall have, and exercise the same rights, as they and each of them had before the passing of this Act, with the exceptions aforesaid, to every effect and purpose whatsoever, and in as ample manner, as if this Act had never been passed.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case the said river Chaudière should hereafter be navigated in part above and below the said bridge by vessels having masts, the said François Verrault, his heirs and assigns, shall cause to be made a draw bridge, to admit of the passing of such vessels navigating in and upon the said river, without any toll, fee, or recompense.

XI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the penalties hereby inflicted shall, upon proof of the offences respectively before any one or more of the Justices of the Peace for the District of Quebec, either by confession of the offender or by the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, (which oath such Justice is hereby empowered and required to administer,) be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of such offender, by warrant signed by such Justice or Justices, and the overplus, after such penalties and the charges of such distress and sale are deducted, shall be returned upon demand to the owner of such goods and chattels, one half of such penalties,

respectively, when paid and levied, shall belong to his Majesty, and the other half to the person suing for the same.

XII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the monies to be levied by virtue of this Act, and not herein-before granted to the said François Verrault, his heirs and assigns, and the several Fines and Penalties hereby inflicted shall be, and the same are hereby granted, and reserved to his majesty, his heirs and successors, for the public uses of this Province, and the support of the Government hereof, in manner herein-before set forth and contained; and the due application of such money, fines and penalties shall be accounted for to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the time being in such manner and form as His Majesty, his heirs, and successors shall direct.

XIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said François Verrault to entitle himself to the benefit of this Act, shall, and he is hereby required within two months from and after the passing of this Act, to give public notice three weeks in the Quebec Gazette, and in writing, to be affixed at the church door of the Parish of Sainte Marie, Nouvelle Beauce, during the same space of time and publicly read after divine service in the morning of each Sunday and Holiday intervening in the course of that time, that he is thereby authorized to build and construct a bridge and toll-house over the said river Chaudière, at the place above-mentioned; and that the inhabitants of the said Parish are entitled to apply to the Grand Voyer, or to his Deputy, within three months after such notification, for the purpose of themselves building the said bridge, which said notice shall be before a Justice of the Peace, certified upon the oaths of any two Officers of Militia, residing in the Country of Dorchester, to have been duly made and given, which Certificate, upon oath with a copy of the aforesaid notice, shall be deposited with any Notary public, residing in the County of Dorchester.

XV. Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if the inhabitants of the said Parish of Sainte Marie, de la Nouvelle Beauce, shall within three months after such notification as aforesaid, apply by Petition to the Grand Voyer of the District of Quebec, or to his Deputy, to obtain a Procès Verbal and shall cause the same to be ratified according to Law, before the twenty-first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, for the purpose of causing the said bridge to be erected by the said Parish of Sainte Marie de la Nouvelle Beauce, or by a part of the same, according to the laws now in force, and shall thereafter in virtue of the said Procès Verbal, erect the said bridge within one year to be computed from the date of the homologation of the said Procès Verbal, then and in such case the said François Verrault, shall not avail himself of this Act, for the purpose of erecting the said bridge and levying the said rates of toll, provided always that if such Petition as above mentioned, be not made and presented to the Grand Voyer or to his Deputy as aforesaid, within three months, and a copy thereof served upon the said François Verrault, within three months after such notification as aforesaid, it shall forthwith after the expiration of the said three months, be lawful for the said François Verrault, to avail himself of this Act, and to proceed immediately thereafter to the erection and construction of the said bridge and toll-house.

XVI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall be deemed a public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such, by all Judges, Justices of the Peace, and all other persons whomsoever, without being specially pleaded.