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30 Victoria – Chapter 43

An Act to incorporate the Woodstock Bridge Company. Passed 17th June 1867.

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Whereas it is deemed advisable to construct a Bridge across the River Saint John at Woodstock, and such a Bridge is much required and would be highly useful to the public in general, and it is thought advisable to incorporate such persons as may be willing to construct the said Bridge, and grant them all necessary privileges for that purpose, and maintaining the same;—

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, legislative Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1. That the Honorable Charles Connell, Honorable Charles Perley, William Lindsay, M. P. P., Lewis P. Fisher, James R. Hartley, John Leary, David Munro, Edward J. Smith, George H. Connell, William S. Shea, William T. Baird, James Gordon, George M'Donough, James Grover, George W. Vanwart, F. R. J. Dibblee, T. W. Longstaff, Frank Rankin, Charles P. Connell, M. D., and William Dibblee, and such other persons as shall from time to time become proprietors of shares in the Company hereby established, their successors and assigns, shall be and they are hereby erected into a body politic and corporate by the name of "The Woodstock Bridge Company," and by that name shall have all the general powers and privileges made incident to a Corporation by Act of Assembly.

2. The capital stock of the said Corporation shall be eighty thousand dollars, and shall be divided into four thousand shares of twenty dollars each, to be paid at such times and in such instalments as the business of the Company shall require, provided that ten per centum on at least twenty thousand dollars of the said capital stock, amounting to two thousand dollars, shall be actually paid in and invested in the business of the said

Corporation in three years from the passing of this Act; and the Corporation shall, when necessary, have leave to extend the said capital stock to the sum in all of one hundred thousand dollars, and shall have power to increase the number of shares accordingly.

3. The first meeting of the said Corporation shall be held in Woodstock, and shall be called by any two of the Corporators by giving thirty days notice of such meeting in the Carleton Sentinel newspaper, for the purpose of choosing Directors necessary for the management of the affairs of the Company, which Directors so chosen shall serve until the first annual meeting, or until others are chosen in their stead, and shall have power to manage the concerns of the said Corporation.

4. The annual meeting of the Company shall take place on the first Tuesday in January in each and every year, and shall be held in the Town of Woodstock, for the purpose of choosing five Directors and transacting other business as hereinafter provided for; which. Directors so chosen shall remain in office for one year, or until others are chosen in their stead, and shall at the first meeting after their election choose one of their number President, and also a Secretary and such other officers as may be necessary to manage the affairs of the said Company; provided always, that no less than three Directors do form a quorum for the transaction of business, and in case of the absence of the President, the Directors shall have power to appoint one of their number Chairman for the occasion; and provided also, that in the event of the time of holding the annual meeting being found inconvenient, the stockholders shall and they are hereby authorized and empowered, at any annual meeting, to change the time and holding the same.

5. The Company at the first meeting or some adjournment thereof, shall have power to make bye laws, rules and ordinances, prescribing the duties, powers and authorities of the Directors of the said Company, and for regulating the transfer, registry and forfeiture of shares, and the sale of forfeited shares, also the right of voting in respectively, and for voting either personally or by proxy, and generally for the good order, conduct and government of the said Company, its affairs and business, as may be requisite and necessary.

6. The joint stock and property of the said Corporation shall alone be responsible for the debts and engagements of the said Company.

7. It shall and may be lawful for the Company, and their successors, officers, and servants, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to design, erect, order, and build or cause to be built, and to complete, maintain, and keep in repair, the said Bridge across the River Saint John, at the Town of Woodstock, in the County of Carleton, at any point which may be deemed most advisable and fit for such Bridge, and to dig and make proper foundations in the lands and grounds lying on each side of the said River, and to eat and level the banks of the said River, in such manner as shall be necessary and

proper for building the said Bridge, and to cut, remove, and take and carry away all and every impediment whatsoever, which may in anywise tend to hinder the erecting and completing the said Bridge, and to execute all other things necessary and requisite, useful or convenient, for erecting, building or maintaining and supporting the said Bridge, according to the tenor and effect, true intent and meaning of the said Act; and further they may from time to time enter and go in upon the lands and grounds adjacent to the said River, on either side thereof, for the purpose of making surveys, examinations or other necessary arrangements for fixing the site of the said Bridge; and further they may explore, lay out and make a road not more than four rods in width leading from either end of the Bridge to the main post road on either side of the said River; and further for the purpose of erecting, building, maintaining, repairing and supporting the said Bridge, the said Company shall from time to time have full power and authority to land on either side of the said River, within two hundred yards of the said Bridge, all materials and other things to be used in and about the same, and there to use and work such materials and things according as they the said Company, and the persons to be by them appointed, shall think proper, without any previous agreement with the owner or owners, tenant or tenants of the property on which such Bridge and every part thereof shall be built, or in and upon which such surveys, examinations and other arrangements may be made, or through which such roads may be explored, laid out, worked, and made, or on which such materials and other things shall be landed, worked, or used, doing as little damage as may be, and making such satisfaction as hereinafter mentioned to respective owners or occupiers of all lands and grounds, tenements and hereditaments which shall be used and occupied, altered, damaged, spoiled, taken or made use of by means of or for the purposes of this Act.

8. The said Corporation shall make, allow and pay reasonable and proper compensation and satisfaction for all lands, tenements and hereditaments taken and occupied, altered, damaged or spoiled by means of and for the uses and purposes of the said Corporation, to be agreed upon by the said Corporation and the respective owners and occupiers of such lands, tenements, and hereditaments; and in case of disagreement between the said Corporation and the said owners or occupiers, or any of them, then such compensation and satisfaction shall be determined by three arbitrators, one to be chosen by the said Corporation, and one by the owner or owners, occupier or occupiers of the private property in question, which two arbitrators so chosen shall choose the third arbitrator; and in case of their not agreeing within ten days after their appointment, then and in such case it shall and maybe lawful for the Governor, upon application of the said Corporation, to appoint the third arbitrator; and the award of the said arbitrators, or any two of them, shall be final and conclusive in the matters referred to them; and in case any of the said owners or occupiers of such private lands shall decline making such agreement, or appointing such arbitrators, then and in every such case the said Corporation shall make application to the Supreme Court of this Province, or some Judge thereof, stating the grounds of such application, and such Court or Judge is hereby empowered and required from time to time, upon such application, to issue a writ or warrant directed to the Sheriff of the County in which such

lands lie, or in case of his being a party interested, then to any Coroner of such County not interested, and in case of the Sheriff and Coroner being both interested, then to some other person or persons who may be disinterested, commanding such Sheriff, Coroner, person or persons, as the case may be, to summon and empanel a jury of five freeholders within the said County who may be altogether disinterested, which jury upon their oaths, (which oaths, as well as the oaths to be taken by any person or persons who shall be called upon to give evidence in the matter, the Sheriff, Coroner, or person or persons summoning such jury, is hereby empowered to administer,) shall enquire, ascertain and assess the distinct sum or sums of money or annual rent to be paid as the amount of compensation and satisfaction for the damages that may and shall be sustained by such owner or owners, occupier or occupiers of such private property as aforesaid; and the award, inquisition or verdict of such jury shall be filed and retained in the office of the Clerk of the Pleas in the said Supreme Court, and shall be final and conclusive between the parties; which amount so assessed as aforesaid, and the costs and the expenses of such proceedings to be taxed and allowed by the Supreme Court or one of the Judges thereof, shall be borne by the said Corporation, and shall be by them paid within thirty days after the said inquisition, award or verdict shall be filed as aforesaid.

9. The said Company shall erect and set up, or cause to be erected and set up one or more gate or gates, turnpike or turnpikes, in, upon and across the said intended Bridge, or within twenty yards thereof, together with toll houses and proper necessary buildings, conveniences and fences near to each gate or turnpike across the said intended Bridge, or on the road or avenue immediately communicating therewith, and within twenty yards of the said Bridge, and the respective tolls following may be demanded and taken by such person or persons as the said Company shall from time to time appoint as toll gatherers, for each and every time of passing over the said Bridge, that is to say:—For every foot passenger not to exceed ten cents; for every horse, mare, gelding, mule, or ass, not exceeding twenty five cents; for every carriage drawn by one horse or beast of draught, with one person, not to exceed fifty cents; for every horse or beast of draught more than one, drawing a carriage, not to exceed sixty cents; for every person more than one with a carriage, not to exceed sixty cents; for neat cattle not to exceed ten cents; for sheep, calves, or hogs, not to exceed five cents each; provided always, that no toll be exacted from children under ten years of age; and the Corporation shall at all times by their bye laws regulate, alter and lessen the rate of tolls when deemed advisable for the interests of the Company, but in no case to exceed the rates herein specified; and all times when the toll gatherer shall not attend to his duty the gate or gates shall be left open; and the toll shall be collected in such manner as may be prescribed by the said Corporation: The rates of toll shall be fairly and legibly printed in large letters, and kept constantly exposed to the view of passengers.

10. No horse, or beast, or carriage of any kind, shall be taken, rode or driven over the said Bridge at a faster pace than a walk, on pain of a forfeiture of four dollars for each and every offence, to be recovered with costs of prosecution against the owner or driver

of such horse or beast, before any Justice of the Peace for the County of Carleton, on the complaint of the toll gatherer, or any proprietor of stock in the said Company, on proof of the toll gatherer, who is hereby declared to be a competent witness, of any other legal proof, the amount when recovered to be applied to the use of the said Corporation.

11. Any person who shall run or evade the payment of toll (from) crossing the said Bridge, shall forfeit and pay for the use of the said Corporation, a sum not exceeding ten dollars for each and every offence, to be recovered, together with the toll and costs of suit, as is directed in the last preceding Section of this Act.

12. If any person shall wilfully and maliciously, and to the prejudice of the said undertaking, break, damage, throw down or destroy any of the works to be erected or made by virtue of this Act, any such person shall be adjudged guilty of felony; and every such person so offending and being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be liable to the punishment prescribed for felony by the laws of this Province.

13. No toll whatever shall be demanded or taken for horse, beast, cattle or carriage of whatever description employed or to be employed in conveying, fetching or guarding mails of letters and expresses under the authority of Her Majesty's Postmaster General, or the duly authorized Post Office authorities in this Province, or the Provincial Government, either when employed in conveying, fetching or guarding the same, or for any soldiers upon their march, or upon duty, or for any horse, cattle or carriages attending them with their arms or baggage, or returning after having been so employed, nor for any waggon, cart, or other carriage whatsoever, of the horse or horses or other cattle drawing the same, which shall be employed in conveying any Ordnance; Barrack, Commissariat, or other public stores of or belonging to Her Majesty's service; and no poor or other rates shall be assessed or levied upon the said Company for or on account of the said Bridge and its appurtenances.

14. The Directors shall at the general annual meeting of the Company in each and every year lay before the stockholders, for their information, an exact and particular statement of the state of the affairs and business of the said Company, agreeably to the several regulations of this Act, so as the same may contain a true account of the whole affairs of the said Company, which statement shall be signed by the Directors and attested by the Secretary.

15. If any shareholder shall fail to pay the amount of any assessment made by the said Company or any part thereof, it shall be lawful for the said Company to sue such shareholder for the amount thereof, or so much thereof as may be and remain due and owing thereon, in any Court of Law or Equity having competent jurisdiction, and to recover the same with lawful interest from the day on which such assessment was payable, with costs of suit.

16. If any action or suit to be brought by the said Company against any shareholder, to recover any money due upon any call, it shall not be necessary to set forth the special matter, but it shall be sufficient for the said Company to declare that the defendant is the holder of one or more shares in the said Company, [state the number of shares,] and is indebted to the said Company in the sum of money to which the assessment or assessments in arrear shall amount in respect of one assessment or more upon one share or more in the said undertaking, and that such assessment was in fact made; and it shall not be necessary to prove any other matter whatsoever, and thereupon the said Company shall be entitled to recover what shall be due upon such call, and interest thereon.

17. Should the Provincial Government at any time after the passing of this Act, be willing and desirous of assuming the said Bridge, and placing the same upon the Great Road establishment of this Province for the free use of all Her Majesty's subjects, and pay to the said Corporation the whole costs and outlay in and about its erection and maintenance, then and in such case the said Corporation shall yield and surrender up to the Provincial Government the said Bridge, with all things appertaining thereto, together with this Act, and such Corporation from that time shall cease and have no longer any existence.

18. Nothing in this Act contained shall in any way interfere with the navigation of the River Saint John, or authorize any obstruction thereof.

19. If the said Company shall not within three years from and after the passing of this Act, complete the said Bridge, or so as to make the same passable for horses and carriages, then and from thenceforth all and singular the powers and authorities vested in them by this Act shall cease and determine to all intents and purposes whatsoever.