

## Clark's Steel Bridge 1892

Taken from the minutes of the St Gabriel East Municipality records as recorded by Bernie Monaghan.

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1885, bridge to be planked

Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1885, Pay for planking, this municipality's share \$21.66

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1886, borrow \$17.50 for repairs to bridge over Jacques Cartier.

Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> 1886, Council petition Government for aid to repair bridge.

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 1886, Grant of \$500.00 from government for repairs to 2 center piers.

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 1890, Proposed construction of an Iron bridge. (Mr. Fitzpatrick Member)

Dec. 1st 1890, accepts government offer and hopes that the government will proceed

with the new Iron Bridge as soon as possible as the old bridge is in a dangerous state

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1891, Municipality share of \$2,533.33 to be borrowed.

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 1891, borrow and levy for abutments of new bridge.

July 6<sup>th</sup> 1891, old bridge dangerous condition Maximum 300 weight.

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1892, that the council sell old bridge.

May 1<sup>st</sup> 1893, sell the building of a fence leading to new Steel bridge.

June 7<sup>th</sup> 1897 to be floored.

June 17<sup>th</sup> 1897, bridge to be painted and floored rust to be removed.

Sign boards to prevent trotting.

Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 1897, borrow \$100.00 to paint bridge, James Burns to be appointed to watch if

anyone trots over bridge.

Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1897, To build breakwaters at the abutments of bridge.

Jan 3rd 1899, acknowledge the \$100.00 received from Mr.Fitzpatrick, Member.

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 1901, James Clark \$4.90 to repair bridge.

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1902, Floor iron bridge John Todd.

Minutes of St Gabriel East.

April 14<sup>th</sup> 1890, To pay Mr. James Burns \$7.50 for repairs to the bridge.

May 5<sup>th</sup> 1890, \$7.50 for repairs to the Bridge over the Jacques Cartier.

To set the fence along the road to the bridge over the Jacques Cartier

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1890, Public meeting of ratepayers in consideration of the building of the new  
bridge over the Jacques Cartier.

Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 1890, to pay \$1000.00 towards the construction of the iron bridge across the  
Jacques Cartier.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 1890, \$9.50 for repairs to the road leading to the bridge.

Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1891, to borrow the sum of \$1,266.67 for construction of an iron bridge this being  
the share of this aforesaid municipality

March 7<sup>th</sup> 1891, acceptance of by-law No. 9 to borrow the money for the bridge.

May 4<sup>th</sup> 1891, repairs to the bridge over the Jacques Cartier set to the lowest tender.

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 1891, levy a tax to pay for bridge costs.

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1891, order James Burns to have the bridge over the Jacques Cartier repaired,  
Railing and floor.

June 6<sup>th</sup> 1892, petition the government to relieve the councils East and West of the money  
borrowed for the bridge across the Jacques Cartier river.

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1892, re. Interest for money borrowed for iron bridge. Also costs of clearing snow  
of the iron bridge.

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 1892, to have the fence or railing at the end of the iron bridge crossing the

Jacques Cartier river put on both sides.

The following was taken from Bernie Monaghan's account of his "Mills of Valcartier" document.

A wooden bridge was erected across the Jacques Cartier River in 1833. We believe it was built on the piers that are still visible today in low water. This bridge was almost destroyed by an ice-jam in 1836 and was condemned in 1831. So for about thirty years the river-crossing was done by ferry between Wolff's landing and William Neilson's property, later owned by Samuel Clark until a second wooden bridge was built on the same piers in or about 1870, as my father, Albert Monaghan, who was born in 1861, used to tell about crossing on the scow to attend church and catechism lessons. This bridge was replaced by the present Iron Bridge built in 1891.

St. Gabriel East records before 1878 must have been lost over the years, consequently there is no record of the building of the first bridges; possibly they have some record in the Records of St. Gabriel East. Patrick Cosgrove was Mayor in 1918 and died while still in office. The building of the Iron Bridge is well detailed and with Government aid, both Municipalities contributed to its erection.

