

Mr. CHEVRIER: What was the date of the installation of the downstream bracket for vehicular traffic?

Mr. CÔTÉ: 1898.

Mr. CHEVRIER: In 1898 then, they carried a one-way movement of vehicular traffic across the bridge on the downstream side only.

Mr. CÔTÉ: Downstream and upstream, both at that time, from 1898 until 1906.

Mr. CHEVRIER: There were two brackets?

Mr. CÔTÉ: Yes.

Mr. CHEVRIER: The downstream bracket was removed for installation of the southern counties railway line.

Mr. CÔTÉ: Yes, in 1909.

Mr. CHEVRIER: And it was not lifted until when?

Mr. CÔTÉ: 1956.

Mr. CHEVRIER: From the memorandum I see mention made in the latter part about the interruption that took place because of the construction of the seaway.

Mr. CÔTÉ: No.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Don't you think you should tell the committee that from 1954 up until the opening of the seaway, and then up until this time, there have been interruptions on the south shore in connection with the bridge. Am I not right in saying that there has been a complete new approach, a complete new southern approach to the Victoria bridge built around the St. Lambert area.

Mr. CÔTÉ: That is correct.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Could you tell the committee how long this new approach took to construct?

Mr. CÔTÉ: Do you know, Mr. Anderson? According to my recollection it took two years.

Mr. CHEVRIER: You say it took two years; and also during that period you started to build a new railway bridge, that is, a trunk off the railway bridge in order to accommodate railway traffic, so there would be no interruption for that kind of traffic, in the same manner that there was no interruption for highway traffic?

Mr. CÔTÉ: That is correct.

Mr. CHEVRIER: And that is still not completed?

Mr. CÔTÉ: Yes, as you may have seen from press reports, the upstream bracket is to be closed beginning next month—no, last month, for six months to change the deck, and that bracket is to provide for a connection between these diversions and the main bridge.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I was coming to that. During the period from 1954 until now how often has the Victoria bridge, upstream or downstream, been closed to vehicular traffic?

Mr. HENDERSON: The bridge was never entirely closed to vehicular traffic. We could always use one side or the other; but we did have to restrict truck traffic. We did have vehicular traffic, and we never actually closed the bridge down.

The bridge has been closed so many times—I mean either one side or the other, and back and forth, that I cannot tell you the number of times.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Might I ask either Mr. Cote or yourself to prepare a statement of the number of times the bridge has been closed either upstream or