Canada Gazette 1891 No 56 Murray Canal Report

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Notice to Mariners

No. 56 of 1891, Page 832

Murray Canal and Approaches, Including Aids to Navigation.

Description of Canal

The Murray Canal is a straight cut (tangent) 6 ½ statute miles long between extremities of piers, 80 feet wide on the bottom, and 12 ½ feet deep below2 the ordinary low water level of Lake Ontario, or the zero of the Toronto gauge, joining the head of the Bay of Quinte with Presqu'ile Bay in Lake Ontario. It has no locks but is crossed by three highway bridges and one railway bridge. At each end of the canal crib-work piers have been built out on both sides into the shallow water, and beyond them a dredged channel 200 feet wide has been continued until water of the same depth as that in the canal is reached. The dredged cut at the east end extends 2,300 feet beyond the piers, and is for its whole length in the axis of the canal, viz.: E. by N. SE M.; at the west end the dredging follows the axis of the canal W. by S 2/3 S., 6,520 feet; it is then deflected 10 degrees to the southward and runs straight on the bearing S.W. by W. ¾ W. a distance of 3,820 feet, where deep water in Presqu'ile Bay is reached. From this point a bearing of S.E. ½ S. and distance of 4,150 feet lead to the entrance of the dredged channel from Presqu'ile Bay into Lake Ontario. This channel bears S.E. by E. 1/8 E., is 9,200 feet long and leads past Calf Pasture Shoal and Salt Point lights, the former being left 560 feet and the later 300 feet distant on the starboard hand going out. After passing Salt Point the channel gradually widens to 1,000 feet until deep water in Lake Ontario is reached.

The canal was opened for traffic on 14th April, 1890, and completed in August, 1890. Its approaches have been marked by a system of buoys and lighted beacons, as follows: -

Buoys

1. Approaching the canal from the eastward, or Bay of Quinte side, a red spar buoy 16 feet long has been moored in 10 feet of water on the east end of a shoal which extends from Indian Island, in the Bay of Quinte.

From this buoy the centre pier of the swing of Trenton bridge bears N.W. by N. distant 11,040 feet, the single tall pine tree on Indian Island W. by S., distant 6,000 feet, and the east entrance of the canal S. W. by W. ½ W., distant 11,360.

This buoy is only about 1,300 feet from the Prince Edward County shore, but the best channel is to the south of it.

2. A similar buoy has been moored in 13 feet of water near the east end, and on the north side of the dredged channel leading from deep water of the Bay of Quinte to the eastern entrance of the canal.

This buoy is distant 1,640 feet from the end of the cribwork at the east end of the canal.

The middle of the dredged channel is 100 feet south of the buoy.

3. In Presqu'ile Bay three red spar buoys, 16 feet long, moored in 13 feet of water on the south edge of the dredged channel which is parallel with the axis of the canal, and respectively 2,260, 4,420 and 6m500 feet distant from the west end of the canal cribwork. The last described of these buoys (No. 20) is placed at the angle between that part of the dredged cut which bears W. by S. 3/8 S. and part which bears S.W. by W. ¾ W., and from it Brighton range light No. 3 is distant W. ¾ S. 700 feet.

4. A red spar buoy, No. 18, in 13 feet on the south side of the channel bearing W.W. by W. ¾ W., and midway between No. 20 and 16.

5. A red spar buoy, No. 16, in 13 feet at the west extremity and on the south side of the last named dredged channel. From this buoy range light No. 1 bears W.S. by W. ½ W., distant 1,400 feet.

6. A red spar buoy, No. 14, in 13 feet water on the north side and at the west extreme of the dredged channel bearing S.E. by E. ½ E., which leads from Presqu'ile Bay to Lake Ontario.

All the above described buoys were first placed on the 25th August 1890. From this last named buoy outwards the sides of the dredged cut are market by six black and six red spar buoys, which have been maintained for some years past.

Canal Lights

Six lights, maintained by the canal authorities, were established last year on the pier heads and bridges as follows: -

1. A fixed red light visible 4 miles from all points of approach by water, shown from a lenticular lantern, elevated 19 feet above the water, standing on a square pyramidal open frame 30 feet from the end of the north pier at the east entrance of the canal. Lat. N. 44 3' 30'', Long. W. 77 34' 30''.

The frame is 12 feet high above the pier and is painted brown.

The light was first shown on 22nd August 1890.

1. A light visible 6 miles up and down the canal is shown from a lenticular lantern, elevated 35 feet above the water, and placed over the swing pier of the Carrying Place highway bridge, which is 4,725 feet up the canal from the last described light.

The lantern is so arranged that when the swing is open for vessels a white light is shown over the southern edge of the swing pier, and when closed and red light is shown directly over the middle of the pier.

This light was first shown in the 1st November last.

3. A similar light to the last described, but only 20 feet above the water, on the swing pier of the Central Ontario Railway bridge, which is 1,500 feet westerly from the Carrying Place bridge.

4. A light similar in every respect to No. 2 on the Smithfield Bridge, which crosses the canal near the middle of its length or 6,600 feet westerly from the railway bridge.

5. A similar light on Lovatt's Bridge, which crosses the canal 6,490 feet from the western extremity of the western piers or 7,700 feet from the last named.

6. A fixed red light, visible 4 miles from all points of approach by water is shown from a lenticular lantern elevated 14 feet above the water, standing within a square pyramidal open frame 30 feet from the outer end of the north pier at the west entrance of the canal. Lat. N. 44 1' 50'', Long. W. 77 40' 30''.

The frame is 12 feet high above the pier and is painted brown.

The light was first shown on 22nd August 1890.

Brighton Range Lights

A range light, which will be known as the Brighton Range Light No. 3, established by the Government of Canada, was put in operation on the 10th instant.

The tower is a square wooden building painted white and 30 feet high from its base to the vane on the lantern. It stands upon an octagonal cribwork pier sunk in 15 feet of water in the axis of the canal and on the north side of the channel which bears S.W. by W ¾ W. It is distant 7,200 feet from the end of the canal piers and 3,920 feet from Brighton wharf.

The light is fixed white, elevated 29 feet above the water, and visible 3 miles down the canal and in the direction of No. range light. In one with No. 2 light, it leads up from the canal through the centre of the channel and is to be left 100 feet

on the starboard hand in passing up. After being passed if brought directly astern with No. 1 directly ahead it will guide through the remainder of the dredged channel.

A range light which will be known as the Brighton Range Light No. 2, established under similar circumstances, stands 5,360 feet W. by S. 3/5 S. from No. 3 or 1,440 feet from Brighton wharf.

The light is fixed red, elevated 45 feet above the water, and should be visible six miles down the canal in alignment with No. 3, or from W. by W. 3/5 S. and through the dredged channel, through Salt Point and Calf Pasture shoals in alignment with No. 1, or N.W. by W. 1/8 W.

The tower is a square wooden building, painted white, 47 feet high, and stands on a square cribwork pier sunk in Presqu'ile Bay in 7 feet water.

A range light, which will be known as Brighton Range Light No. 1, established at the same time, stands 1,420 feet S. E. by E. ½ E. from No. 2, and 1,100 feet from Brighton wharf.

The light is fixed white, elevated 28 feet above the water, and should be visible six miles in alignment with No. 2, and also toward No. 3 light.

The tower is a square wooden building, painted white, with iron lantern red, is 30 feet high and stands on an octagonal cribwork pier sunk in Presqu'ile Bay in 14 feet water.

Discontinuance of Calf Pasture Shoal Light

The lighthouse town on a crib on Calf Pasture shoal (No. 175 in Canadian List of Lights) has been moved to No. 1 crib of the Brighton range lights. A temporary light was continued until the range lights were put in operation, but since the 10th September, no light has been shown on Calf Pasture shoal. The cribwork pier still remains however to serve as a day mark.

Discontinuance of Salt Point Back Range Light

At the same time the back range light, which in one with the Salt Point light, led through the old channel into Presqu'ile Bay, was discontinued. This light was not included in the latest Canadian list.

Sailing Directions

Vessels approaching the canal from the eastward should keep the Prince Edward shore close on board after passing the Nigger Island buoys, until the Indian Island buoy is passed, when they can bear up S.W. by W. ¼ W. towards the canal entrance until the centre line of the canal is reached. By day the centres of the swings of the bridges, by night the lights on the same (white if swings are open, red if closed), in one will indicate with sufficient accuracy the middle of the dredged channel and of the canal, and are to be kept in alignment. Each bridge is passed to the south of the swing, which is somewhat northward of the axis.

In leaving the canal going westward, the same marks in rear will give the middle of the first portion of the dredged channel, while No. 3 and Not. 2 Brighton light in one in front show the same alignment. The middle of this channel is only 100 feet distant from the three red buoy marking its south edge. A conspicuous point of rushes at No. 22 buoy runs out into deep water and should be passed close to instead of being given a wide birth as is usual. This course, W. by S. 3/8 S., is kept until No. 3 light is only 200 feet ahead, when the vessel should bear up S.W. by W. ¾ W., for No. 1 Brighton light. As soon as buoy No. 16 is passed, she should bear up S.E. ¼ S. until lights Nos. 1 and 2 are brought in one bearing N.W. by W. 1/8 W. astern. This alignment leads out through the middle of the dredged channel through Calf Pasture and Salt Point shoals, and as soon as Presqu'ile main light bears west the vessel is in Lake Ontario clear of all shoals.

The bearings given throughout this Notice are magnetic. The variation of the magent for 1891 is about 7 degrees westwardly.

This notice affects Admiralty charts Nos. 797 and 1,152, and those parts describing the lights should be entered in the Canadian List of Lights and Fog Signals under the numbers 170 and 175 a, b, c, d, e, f, g and h.

Wm. Smith

Deputy Minister of Marine

Department of Marine,

Ottawa, Canada, 24th September 1891

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MURRAY CANAL AND APPRACHES, INCLUD- ING AIDS T NAVIGATIN. ... 2 n the Smithfield Bridge, wbich crsses the canal near the middle of its length r 6600 feet

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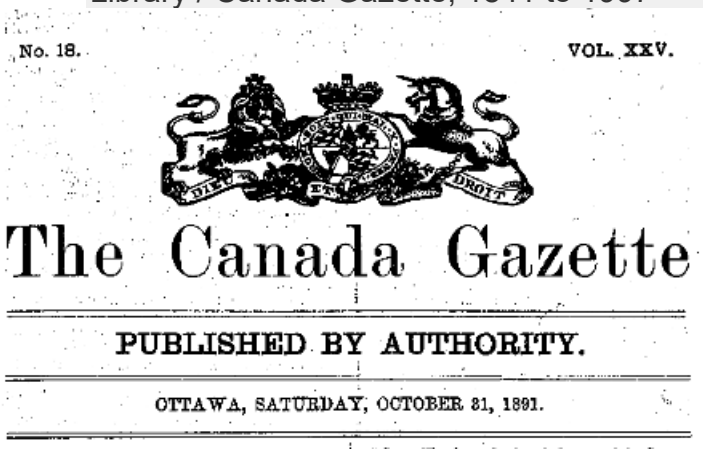
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