

## **Speech for Unveiling of Gaspé Stone**

**Friday 18th September 2009**

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. As has already been said, this is the second part of a mutual exchange of stone maps between Jersey and the Gaspé. The Jersey map was unveiled in Paspébiac on 2nd August and I sent a message of greetings and good wishes to the people of the Gaspé which was read out at that ceremony.
2. I have received two letters of good wishes in respect of today's unveiling [read out 2 letters].
3. As we have heard, there are strong links between Jersey and the Gaspé. However the purpose of the exchange of granite maps is not just to commemorate the past; it is also to look forward and emphasise the continuing connections between our respective communities. As Monsieur Bechervaise says in his letter, there are some 450 family names found in the Gaspé which originate in the Channel Islands. There are therefore a lot of cousins over there waiting to be discovered; so I would encourage people from Jersey

to travel to the Gaspé as I know they will receive a warm welcome over there.

4. I congratulate all those who have played a part in this initiative and I express my grateful thanks to the people of Gaspé for this wonderful stone map.