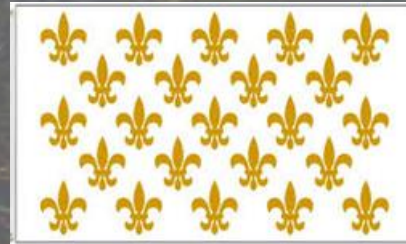
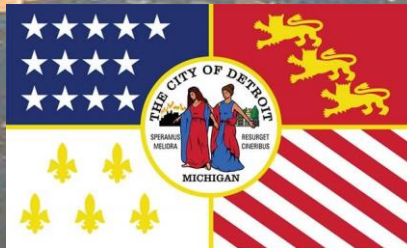




# *French Foundations of le Détroit (the Strait)*





# *Vieilles Chansons du Détroit*

## The Old Songs of the Strait

Marcel Bénêteau



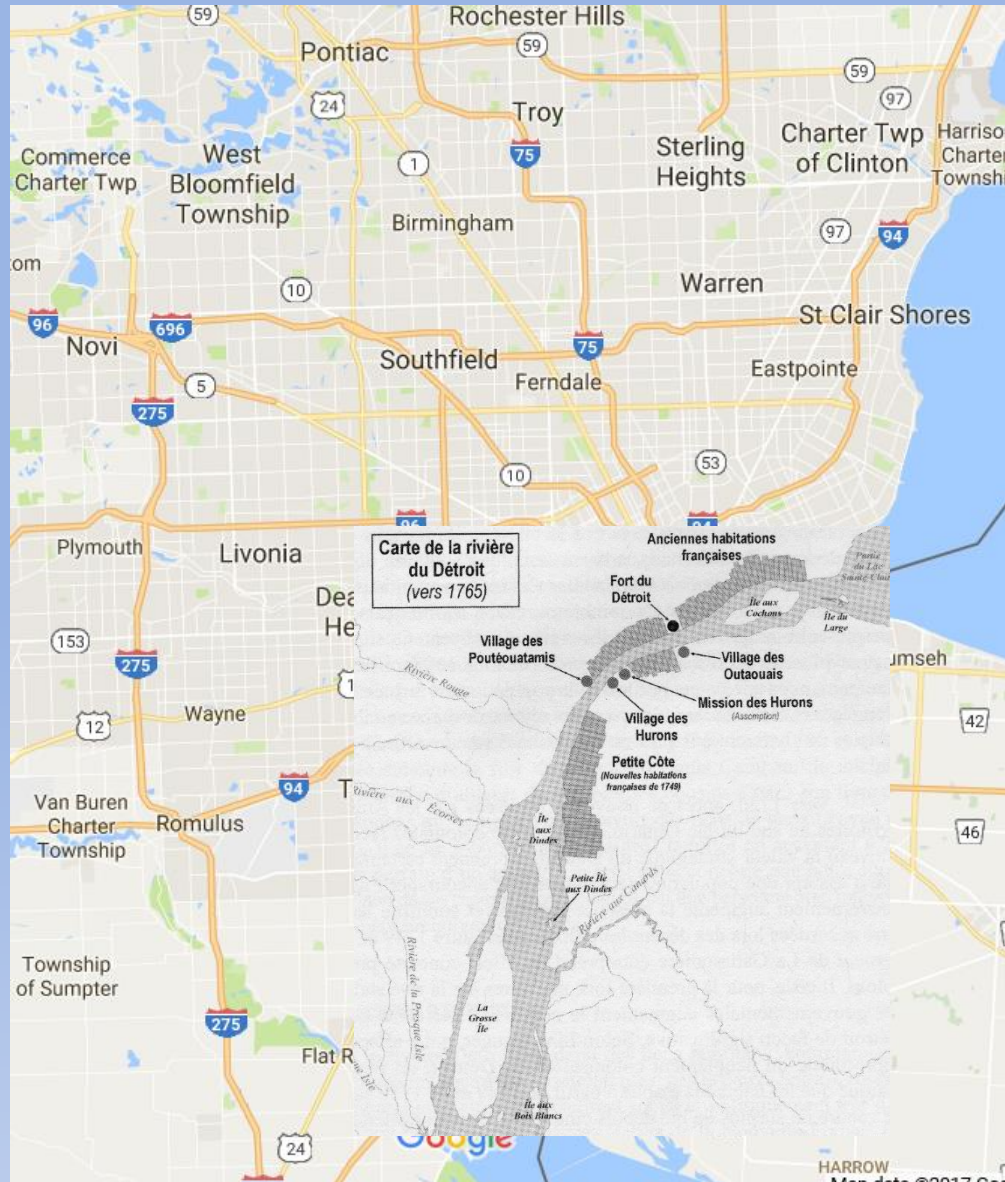




This is a Google Map of the Detroit, Michigan metropolitan area. The map shows a dense network of roads and highways. Major highways are highlighted in orange and labeled with their respective numbers and shields: I-75 (blue and red), I-94 (blue and red), I-275 (blue and red), I-696 (blue and red), and US-24 (white and blue). Other roads are shown in yellow and labeled with their numbers and shields: US-10, US-12, US-153, US-39, US-401, and US-46. The map also shows the Detroit River, the St. Clair River, and the Detroit River International Bridge. The city of Detroit is labeled in the center, and other cities like Windsor, Ontario are labeled to the east. The map is credited to Google and has a copyright notice for 2017.



# French Foundations of Detroit





# French Foundations of Detroit





# French Timeline at le Détroit (the Strait)

Etienne Brulé arrives at the Strait

1620 Spring

French trading post established at the Strait

1620 Fall

Mayflower arrives at Plymouth Rock

1640-41

Jean de Brébeuf and Chaumonot pass through the Strait, erect a large cross and pronounce, “Here is a land for all peoples.”

1679

La Salle & Hennepin pass the Strait aboard **le Griffon**

1701

Cadillac founds “le Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit du Lac Erié”

1760

British take possession of the New France

1796

US/UK draw a border “le détroit”=> Detroit + Windsor

1805

The Great Fire of Detroit

1837

Michigan becomes a state.

1845

Construction of the current church of de l’Assumption - Windsor

1887

Construction of Ste Anne de Detroit – Last French Landmark

# Antoine de la Mothe de Cadillac

- Living at Mackinac 1694-96, Cadillac befriended the local Indian Nations, the Hurons, Odawas and Potowotomis, that had been displaced from the Strait around 1640.
- In 1701 Cadillac founded Detroit with Nations from the north for a multi-ethnic, mutually-beneficial commercial enterprise for fur trade



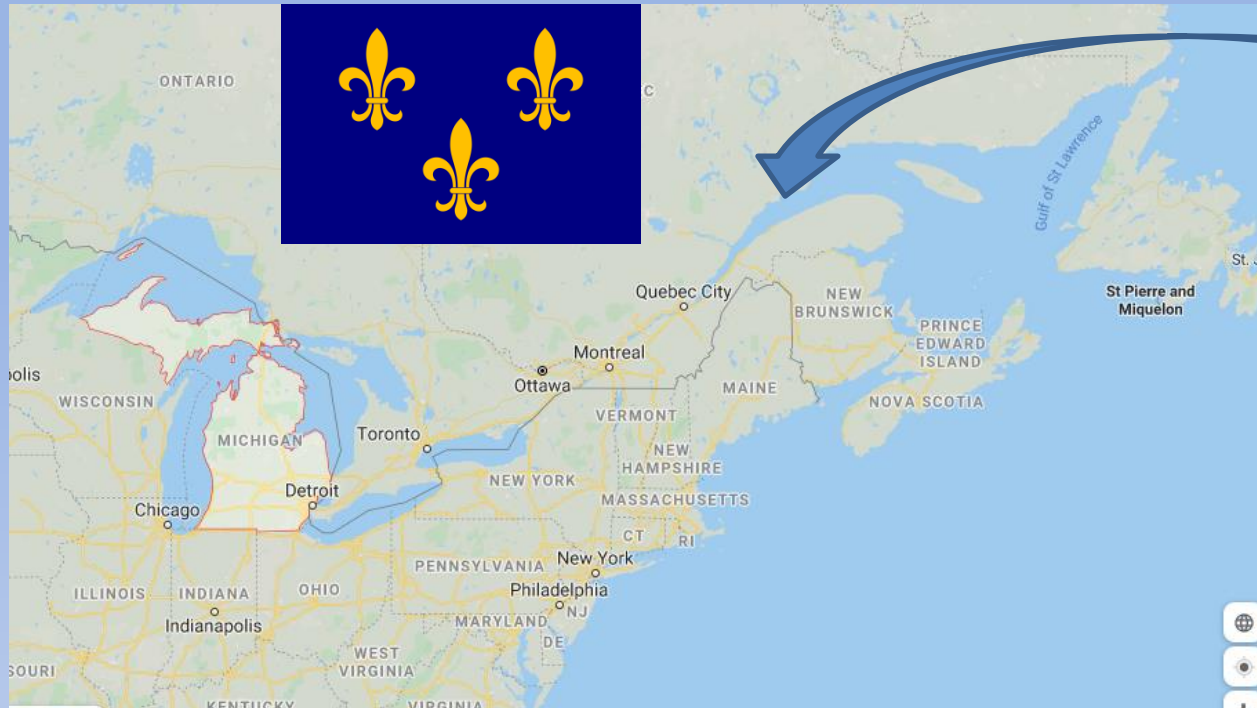






# Waves of French to Michigan

10,000 French  
immigrants to New  
France 1609-1760





# Waves of French to Michigan

1760



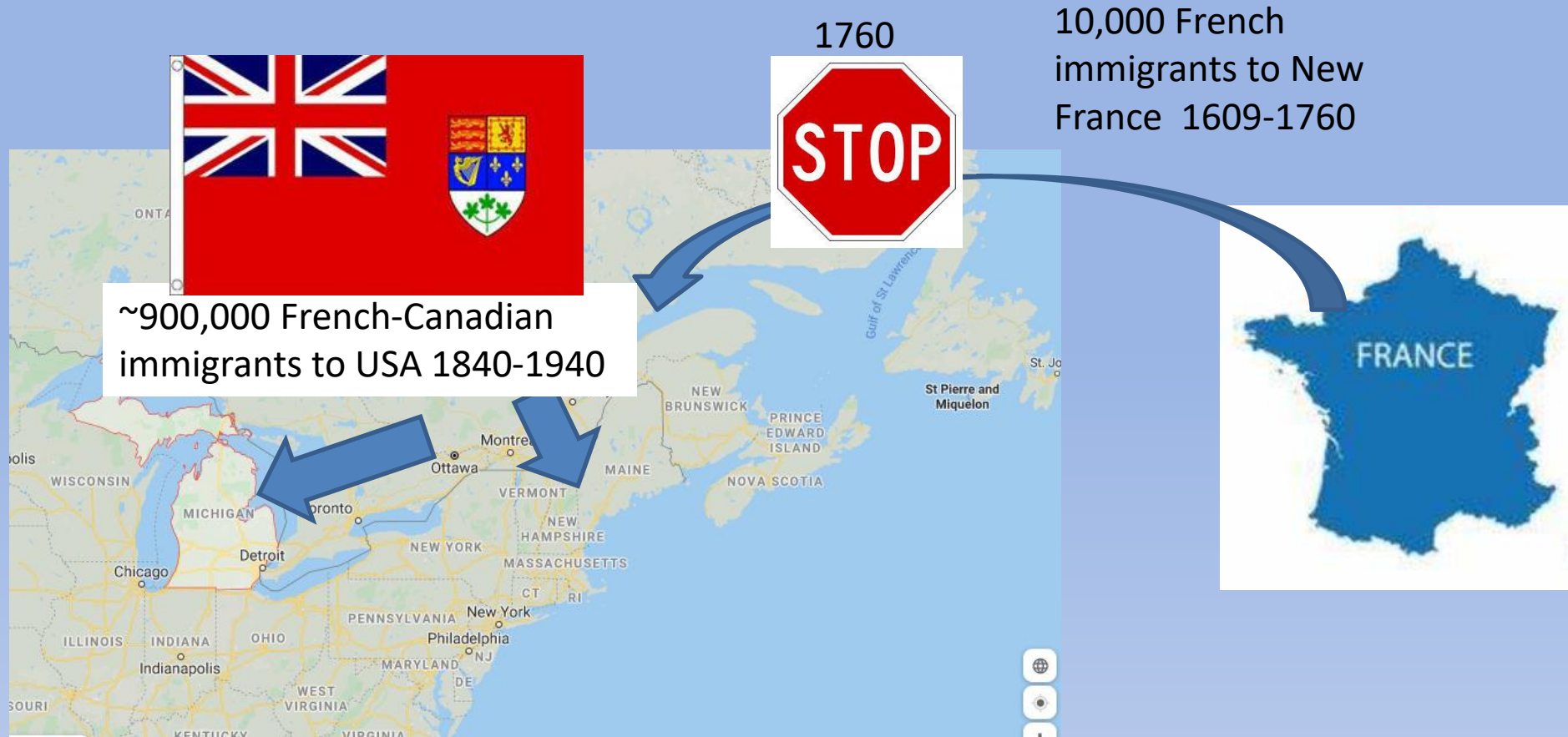
~10,000 French  
immigrants to New  
France 1609-1760



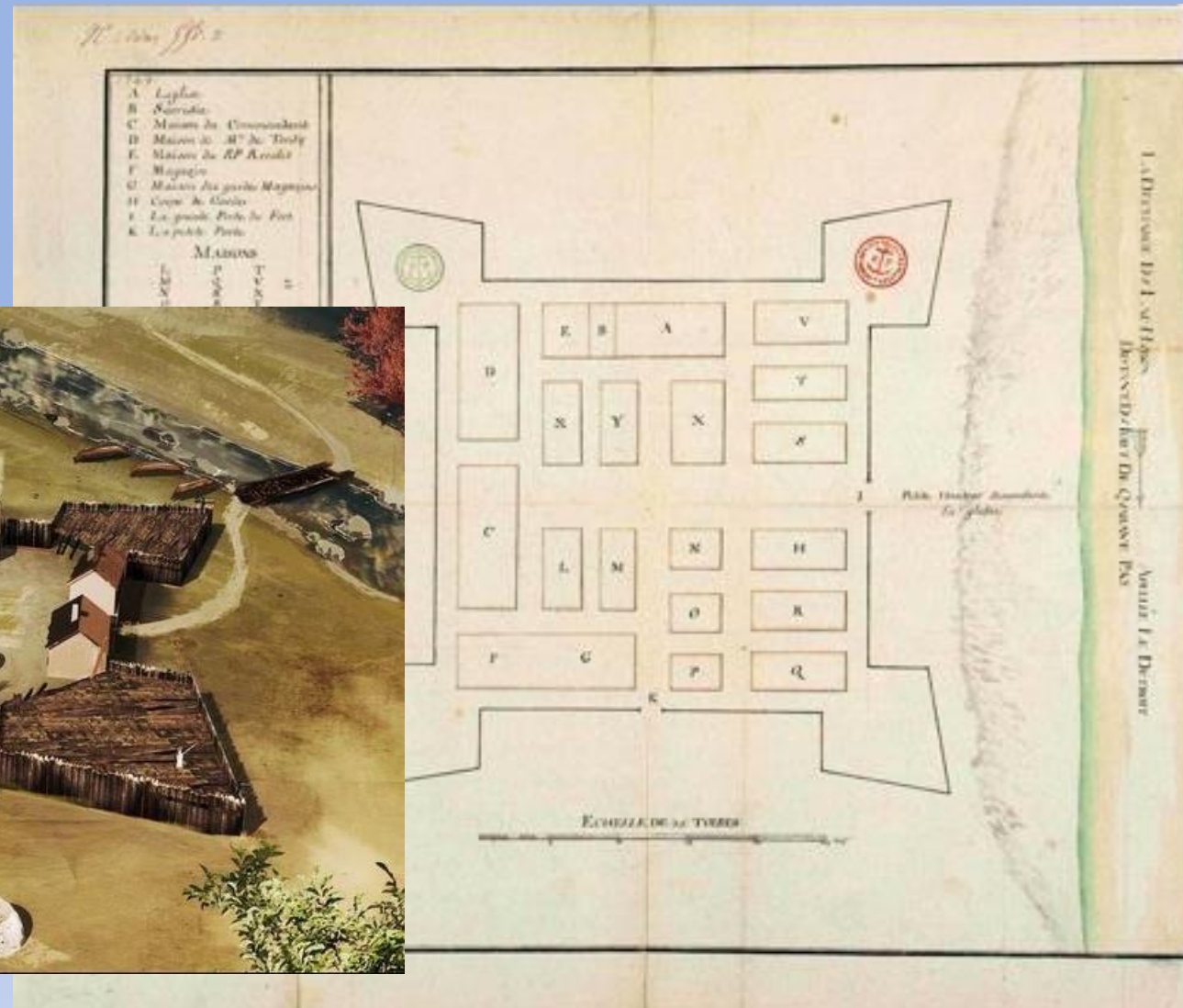
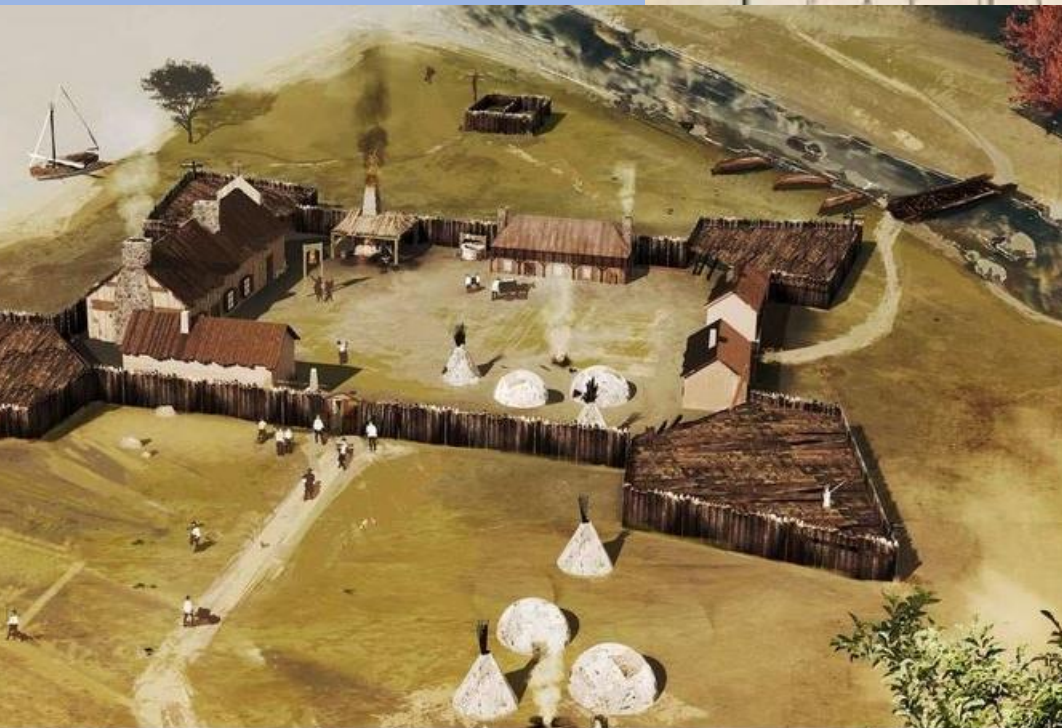




# Waves of French to Michigan



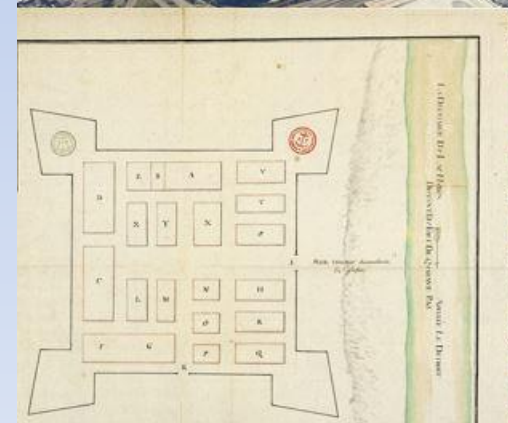
# Fort Pontchartrain du Detroit 1701





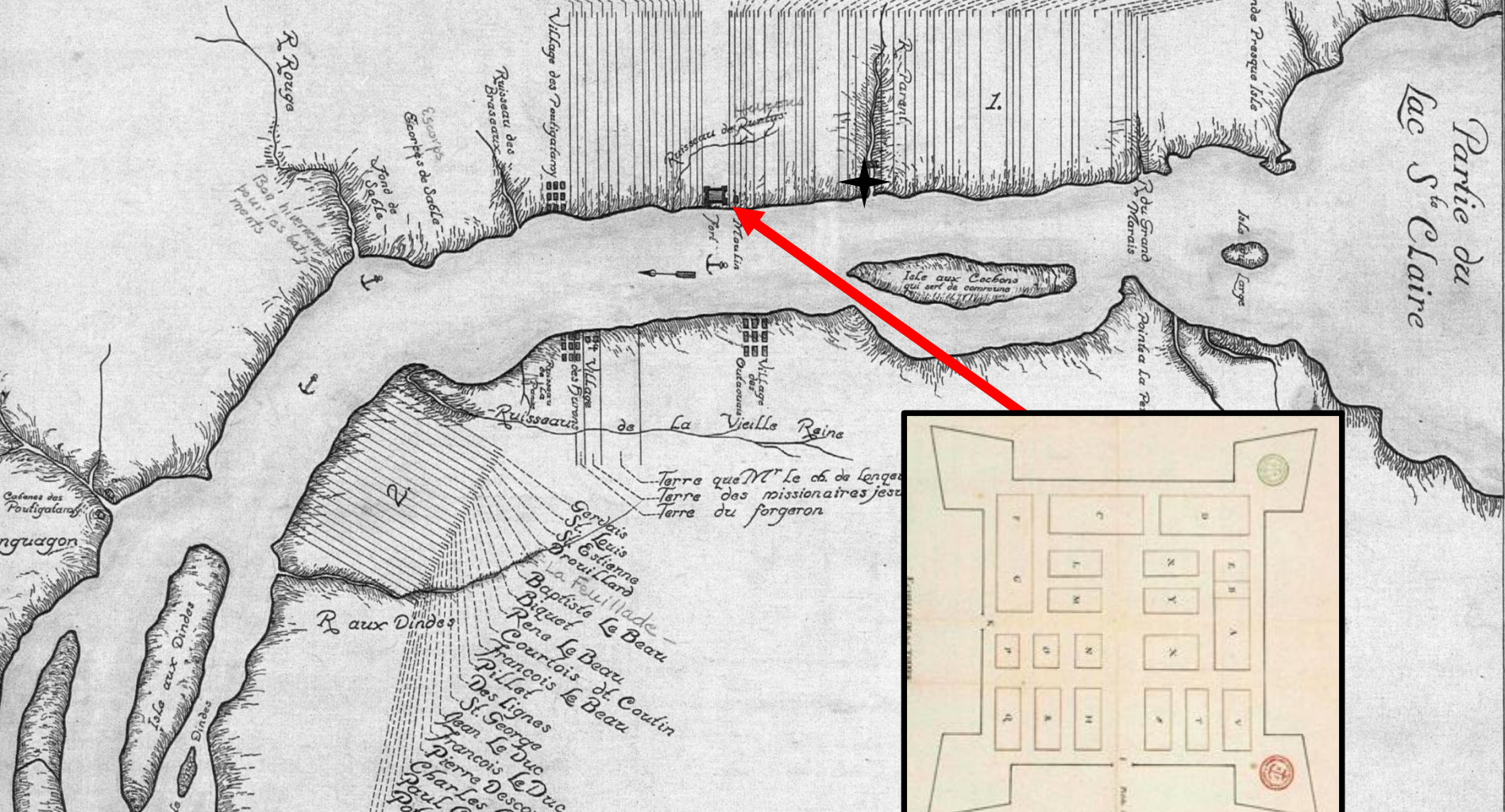


1701 Original Site of Fort  
Pontchartrain du Detroit  
As founded by Cadillac





viennes habitations Francoises  
des habitations Francoises de 1749

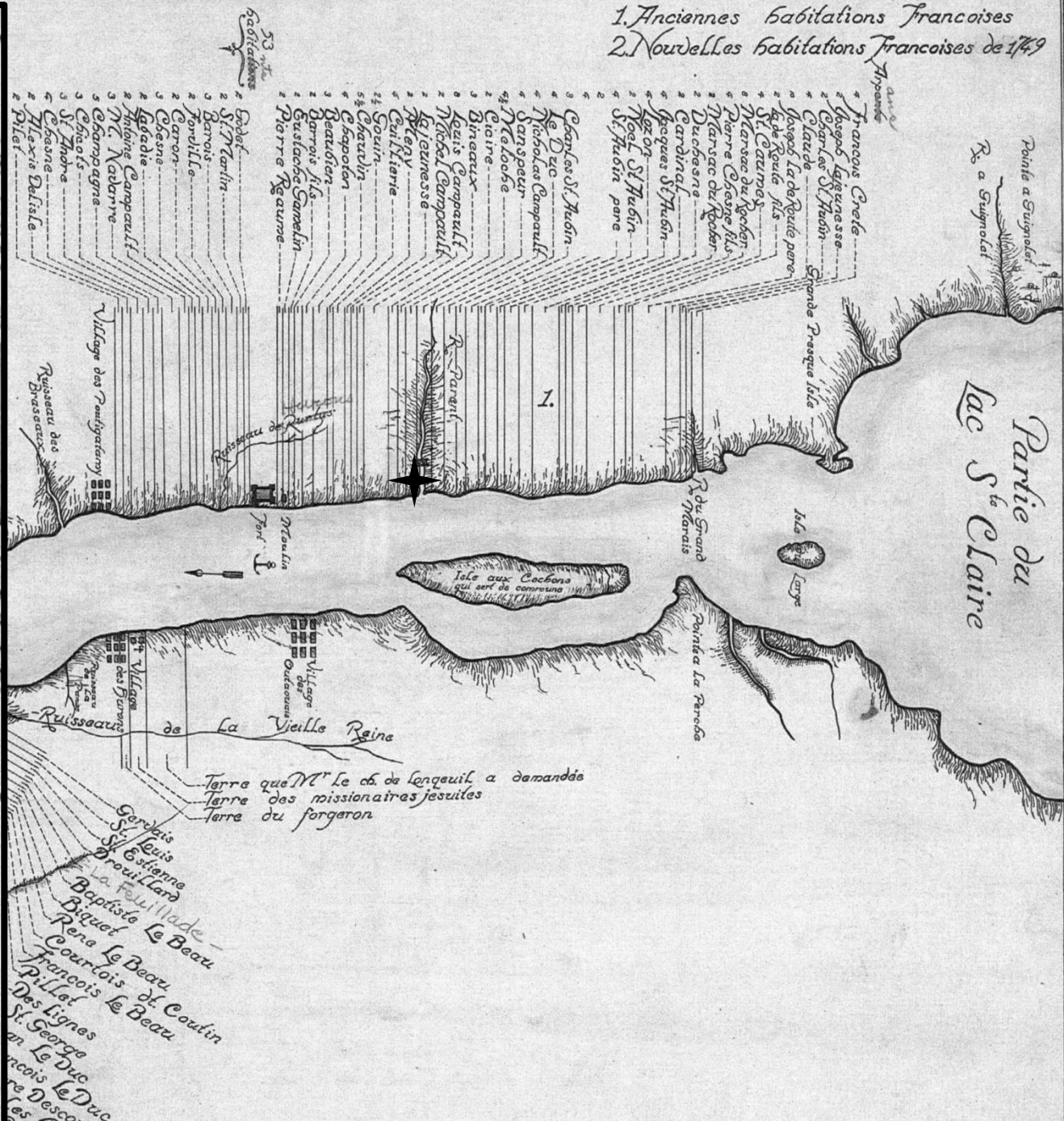




- 2 Godet  
2 St. Marlin  
3 Barois  
2 Forville  
2 Caron

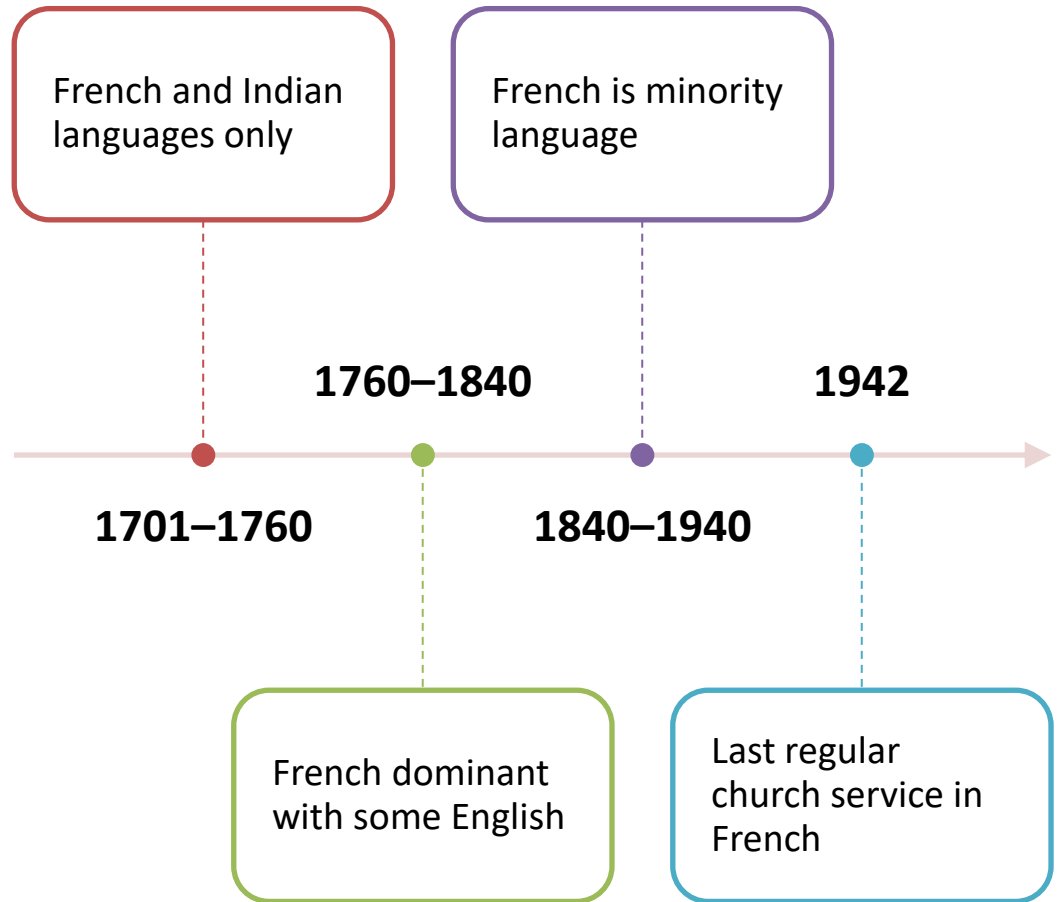
Pointe a Suroest  
R. a Suroest

Partie du  
Lac S<sup>to</sup> Claire





# French Language in Detroit





# The French-speaking Community of the Windsor Area

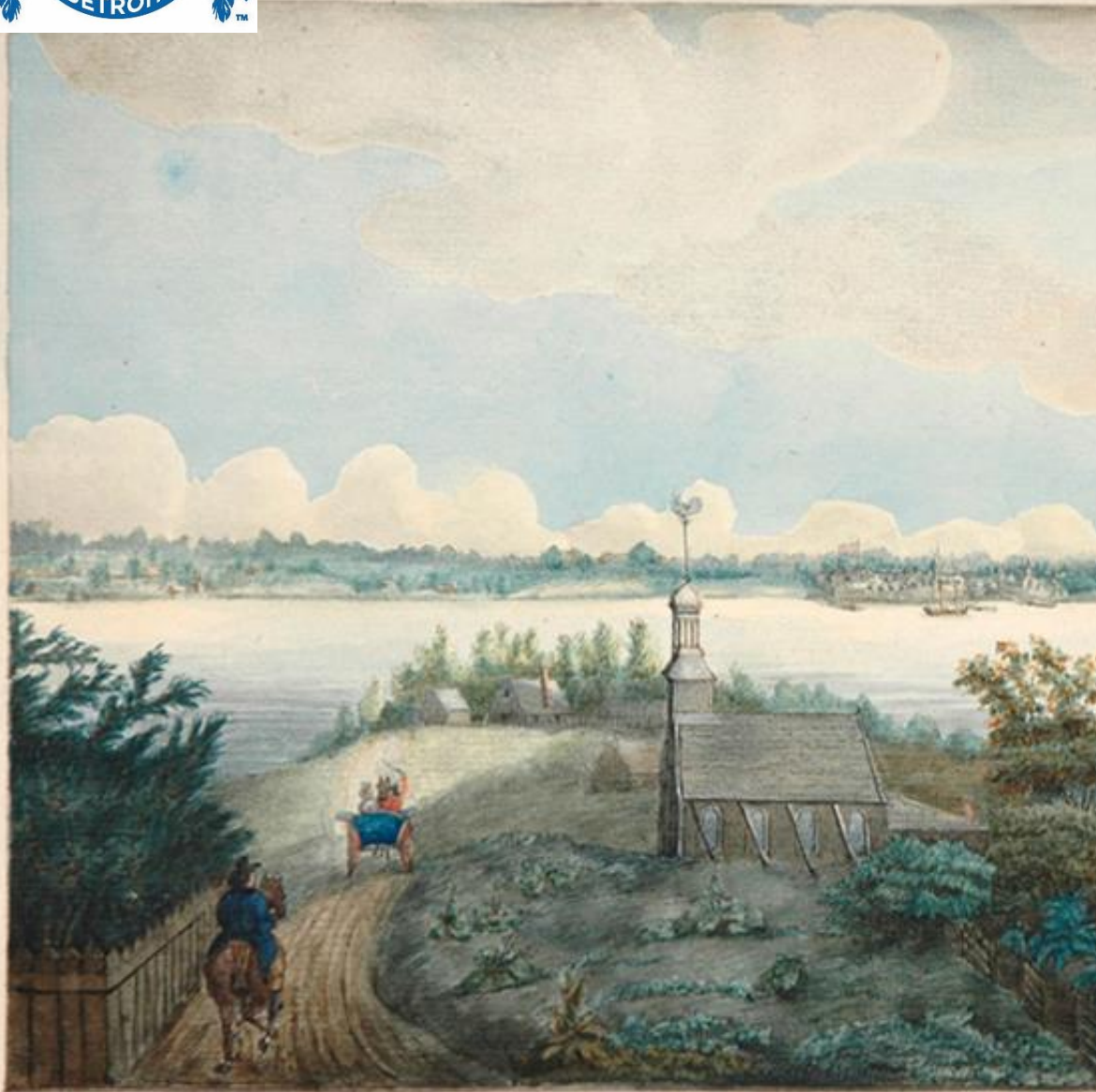
- Growing Francophone population: 10,000+ students 18 grade + 4 high schools
- Le Collège Boréal - ( one campus of province-wide community college )
- Francophone Community Center ( CCF-WECK)
- French speaking African associations from the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Cameroun, Sénégal fur burdgeoning immigrant segment
- Résidence Richelieu ( 51 appartements for French seniors)
- Club Richelieu (social charitable organization functioning only in French)
- Churches: St Jérôme- Windsor, Ste Anne-Tecumseh, St Joseph-Riviere Canard
- Radio Canada CBEF 1550AM 105.5FM
- Weekly newspaper - Le Rempart





# Assumption Church - (Windsor) 1843

Recently reopened



*A View of Detroit and the Straits, taken from the Huron Church June 3<sup>d</sup> 1843*





The Basilica de Ste Anne de Detroit  
National Historic Landmark

---



## Gabriel Richard – French Refugee in Detroit 1798-1832

---

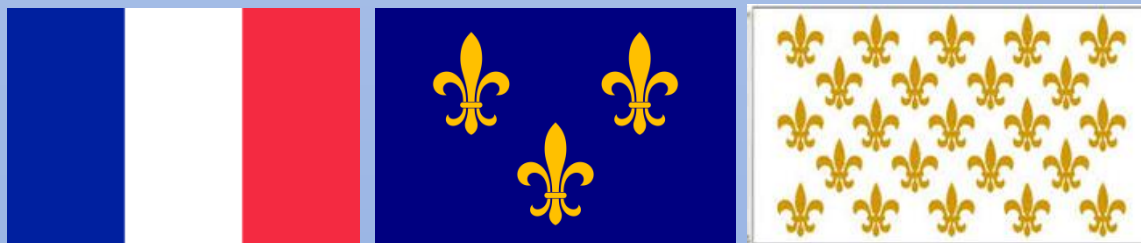
- Co-founder of University of Michigan
- First printing press, first newspaper in MI
- First priest elected delegate to Congress
- Pastor of Ste Anne de Detroit
- Served also as minister to non-Catholics
- Opened Schools for Natives
- Died caring for victims of cholera epidemic
- Detroit Motto still used today: “We hope for better things, It will rise from the ashes” after 1805 fire
- Two area high schools and park across from Belle Isle named from Gabriel Richard



# The French legacy at the Strait today

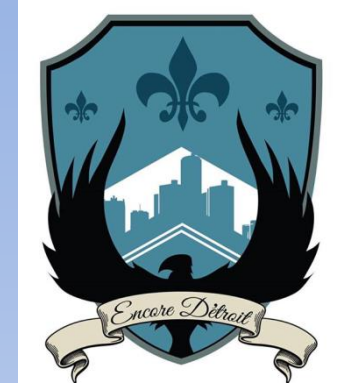
## US SIDE of the RIVER

- La Basilica pf Ste Anne de Detroit, only French building remaining
- Dozens of French street and place names
- 4000 French citizens in automotive (Valeo, Faurecia, etc)
- Stellantis (Fiat Chrysler)+ PSA(Peugeot-Citroen)
- French School of Detroit
- L'Alliance Francaise de Detroit (language and culture)
- L'Alliance Francaise de Grosse Point (language and culture)
- Cadillac statue and plaques at Hart Plaza
- Statues at Wayne State- Marquette, La Salle, Cadillac, Gabriel Richard
- Le Rendez-vous du Detroit – Annual French/Native cultural event
- CANADIAN SIDE of the RIVER: 15000 French speakers .....





# DETROIT FRENCH EVENTS



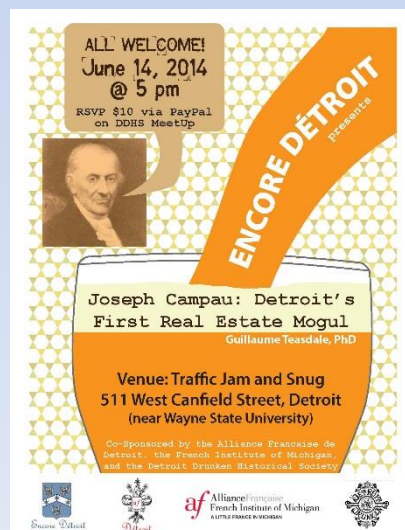
**July 2013, 2014**

Bayou Detroit event - Cajun Zydeco



**May 2014 –**

"Joseph Campau –  
1<sup>st</sup> Real Estate Magnate of Michigan"



**Dec 2013/14/15/16/17/18**

French Christmas Concert at  
Ste Anne de Detroit 300+ with  
Windsor French Choir







## DETROIT FRENCH EVENTS

**Le NAIN ROUGE - “The Red Dwarf”** Legendary French evil creature whose appearance is followed by catastrophes . Every March the Nain Rouge is “banished” from the city in a fun-filled costumed parade, Detroit’s unique version of Mardi Gras.



**2016,2017,2018,2019, 2022**  
La Marche du Nain Rouge





# DETROIT FRENCH HISTORY CRUISE



## Two annual cruises:

- Public cruise in June
- School cruise in May for students studying French.

**2016,2017,2018,2019, 2021, 2022**

Detroit French History Cruise

230 capacity – sellout

Commentary in English + French







# Detroit “Jesuit French Pears”

In the 1600s French Jesuit priests brought pears to the Great Lakes where they crossed with local to produce a unique variety now valued as heritage

## French Pear=

The tallest growing pear tree known, often reaching the height of 100 feet. A great bearer and hardy. Fruit yellow, medium, but perfect in shape very rich in flavor, most valuable canning pear yet introduced. Middle to last of August. See illustration on page 22.



FRENCH PEAR.  
REDUCED SIZE.

*Greening Nursery Catalog, 1897*

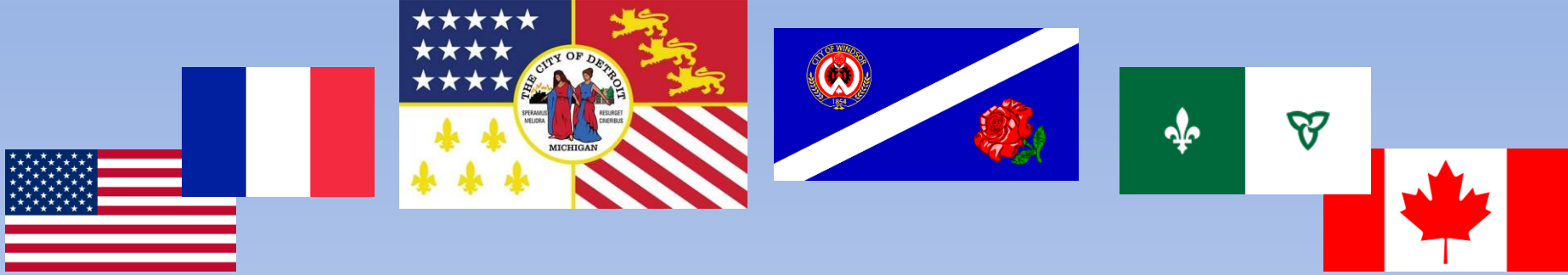
## Promotion and Preservation Efforts

One of the oldest groves of Jesuit Pear trees was in Detroit’s Water Works Park, planted around 1790 on a French ribbon farm. Before the last tree died in 1941, grafts were made and re-planted on the site



## The Jesuit Pear

The French Pear  
*of the*  
Detroit River and



## Le Rendez-vous du Détroit

MISSION – To revive the knowledge and appreciation of the period of French and Native Peoples' mutual beneficial partnership in the era of the fur trade 1600-1850 in order to contribute to the renaissance of the Detroit River Region.







# Le Rendez-vous du DÉTROIT

Rendez-vous

## Daily Entertainment

Marcel Bénéteau

Spirits Rising and the All Nations Dancers

La Compagnie

The Bell Family

## Daily Activities

Artisans

Children's Tent with Games and Crafts

Heritage Tent

Beer and Wine Tent

French Canadian and Native American Food

Basket Raffle

Patisserie

Living History Reenactors

18th Century Living Presentations

Tours of Historic 1880s National Historical Landmark

.

The B  l  tre French Marines,  
reenactors of the French military  
In Michigan in the 1700s.



French traditional weaving  
demonstration by reenactors.





# Le Rendez-vous du DÉTROIT



The Bâletrre French Marines  
reenactors of the French military  
in Michigan in the 1700s.



Les Trois Buffons under the big tent,  
traditional French Music.



The All Nations Dancers with  
Guillaume Lacroix





Francophone Centre in Grand Rapids

Jean Mallebay-Vacqueur  
Honorary French Consul for Michigan

Guillaume Lacroix  
French Consul General for Midwest



All Nations Dancers under the big tent



Genot Picor,  
Les Trois Buffons  
French traditional music



Mo Omari, President of the Alliance Française de Détroit



"Ze French Lady" Claude Boly,  
gourmet caterer of French food





Cadillac's hometown in France, St. Nicolas de la Grave sponsored a booth to encourage tourism to their region.



Elizabeth Bourne of French and Indian ancestry, founder and spirit of le Rendez-vous



Les Voyageurs de West Hills Middle School with their teacher Stephanie Potier.



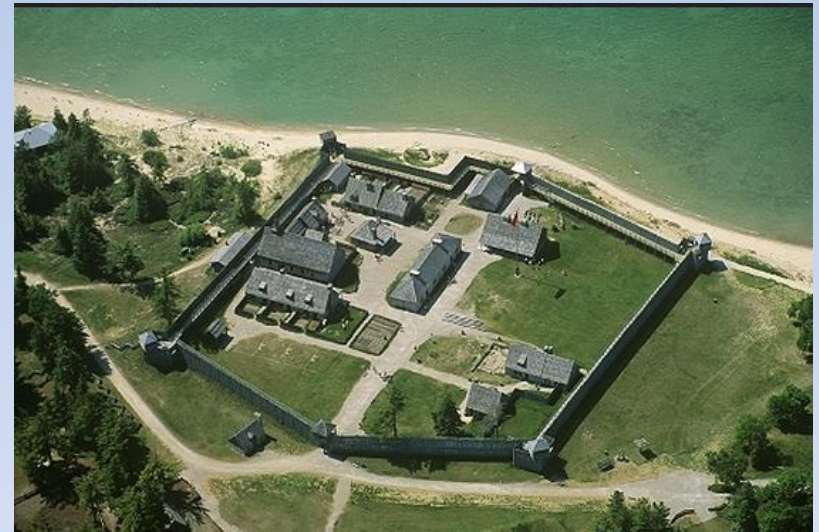
Martin Dionne, Quebec Head of Delegation for Midwest.





## GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

Rebuild **Fort Pontchartrain de Detroit** with native structures of Huron, Odawa and Potowotomi Nations for a family historical destination





# Le Nouveau Fort Pontchartrain du Detroit

## Endorsement of the Project

Endorsements of the project have been offered by

- Frédéric Lefebvre, Elected member of the French National Assembly
- French Ambassador to the USA Philippe Etienne
- Cadillac Museum housing the birthplace of Detroit's founder in St Nicholas de la Grave in SW France
- Montreal's *Musée du Pointe-à-Callière*, Louise Pothier, *archéologue en chef*
- Mackinac State Historic *Parks Director*, Phil Porter





# LA PUISSANCE DU DÉTROIT

Chanson thème du spectacle L'écho d'un peuple au Détroit

Paroles : Félix Saint-Denis Musique : Brian St-Pierre

Voix : André Gagnier de Comber / Pointe-aux-Roches dans le Sud-Ouest ontarien

Harmonies : Claude Lachaine, Johanne Turcotte et Brian St-Pierre

Enregistrée le 11 janvier 2010

(La Quête)

Comme un poirier venu de France  
Enraciné bien fort ici  
Je surmonte en toute puissance  
Le froid, l'hiver et ses défis

D'la Pointe-Pelée au lac Sainte-Claire  
Force clandestine du chemin d'fer  
Membre d'une famille tricentenaire  
Je crois ici et j'en suis fier !

Vive la résistance et la joie,  
Puissances de mes ancêtres en moi,  
D'une rive à l'autre et avec toi,  
On fait déborder le Détroit

(La Conquête)

Comme le fruit issu d'une semence  
et des pépins des mauvais jours  
Je fais fleurir ma Nouvelle-France  
Même quand parfois le Pain est Court

D'la Pointe-aux-Roches au lac Érié  
C'est le jardin de mon pays  
Terre où ma fierté a gagné  
Toute la bataille par l'harmonie

Vive la résistance et la joie,  
Puissances de mes ancêtres en moi,  
D'une rive à l'autre et avec toi,  
On fait déborder le Détroit



# ***The Motto of Detroit***

***“Speramus meliora; resurget cineribus”***

“We hope for better things. It will rise from the ashes “

Gabriel Richard 1805

Merci de Votre Attention  
Hope to see you August 1, 2021 at  
Le Rendez-vous du Detroit  
At Historic Fort Wayne