

# CHWNE Module 6 Lesson 3

## Samuel de Champlain (1)

1574-1635



**Samuel de Champlain** was born in **1574** in the French province of **Aunis in Brouage**.

This was near the port city of **La Rochelle** in the Protestant province of **Saintonge**.

He was born into a family of **Huguenot mariners**. Both his **Father** and his **uncle** were **sailors and navigators**.



He served in **King Henry IV's** army in **Brittany** during the wars against the **Catholic League**, from **1594 to 1598**.

**Henry IV** eventually converted to Catholicism in **1593**. The **Edict of Nantes** came into effect, in **1598** giving the Huguenots freedom to trade.



While in the army, Champlain **started at the rank of quartermaster** feeding and caring for the horses.

He subsequently learnt to use firearms by virtue of needing to be skilled at self defense at sea.

# Samuel de Champlain





His firearms skills would later be used to build relationships with the **Algonquin, Huron and Wendat Natives** against their enemies the **Iroquois**.

Because of Champlain's nautical environment, he learnt the skills of the trade - navigation, map-drawing, making nautical charts, and writing reports.



When peace was made between **Henry IV** and the **Catholic League**, the **Spanish** army stationed at **Brittany** needed to get back to Spain.

They had been fighting against **Henry IV's** succession to the throne of France.



In **1598** when he was **24 years old**, Champlain's uncle's ship - **The Saint-Julien**, was chartered to transport **Spanish troops to Cadiz, Spain**.



The Notary's record shows - **The Saint-Julien:**  
**William Allene's ship**, chartered for the transport  
of Spanish troops stationed at **Blavet**  
(**Port-Louis**) in **Brittany**, for the repatriation of the  
said troops to **Cadiz, July 1598.**



Champlain was invited to accompany his uncle  
(**William Allene**).

It was a difficult journey, after which he had some  
respite in **Cadiz**.

Then, the ship was again chartered, this time to  
accompany another **Spanish fleet (a larger one)**  
**to the West Indies.**



He was again invited on the voyage which lasted  
**3 years from age 25 to 28 (1599-1602).**

When his uncle gave command of the ship to the  
captain, he said to Champlain *'watch over the  
ship'*.



Champlain took the instruction seriously enough that he **kept detailed notes about Spanish holdings**, complete with illustrations.

His journey that took him **from the Caribbean to Mexico City**.



It is claimed that he gave this secret report to **King Henry IV**, who rewarded him with an annual pension.

This report was published for the first time in **1870**, and it was named, ***'Narrative of a Voyage to the West Indies and Mexico 1599-1602'***.



Champlain was asked to handle his uncle's business affairs in **1600**, due to his illness.

When **his uncle died in 1602**, Champlain at the age of **28**, inherited all of his estate which included a **merchant ship**, commercial properties in Spain, and an estate near the **Huguenot city of La Rochelle**.



**Guillaume Allène** in 1601, had bequeathed to his nephew **Samuel Champlain** a house specified on the act of notaries **Germans Tronson** and **Claude Dauvergne**.



**The Notary's record shows:** *"Marcos de Rivera, notary in Cadiz"* writes a will in favor of his nephew Samuel Champlain where he expresses his feelings:



"I have a lot of love and affection for ***Samuel de Champlain here present, coming*** from Brouage in the province of Saintonge due to the many good care he gave me during my illness I suffered

...



I also bring love to him for being married to an aunt, **his mother's sister (Valentine)**, as well as for various reasons and considerations that seem to me to justify. "

**Samuel Champlain, by will, inherits land, vineyard, orchard, several houses, warehouses, sheds, barns near La Rochelle.**



## **Note about Guillaume Allene:**

He and his wife **Guillaumette** were **Huguenots**.  
From **1563-1581** he is listed in **La Rochelle** as  
**merchant and bourgeois**.

The will he made in Cadiz stated that he was  
married to Samuel's aunt.



Suddenly, he became independently wealthy. **He became the court geographer to King Henry IV.**

His duties included travelling to French ports to learn about North America from fishermen who travelled along North American coasts and fishing grounds of the Grand Banks.



Champlain had assessed the failure of previous attempts at colonization in **New France**.

He was anxious to see the places Cartier had seen, and possibly explore further than he did.



**Champlain's first voyage to New France** was as an observer on a fur trade voyage with his friend **Francois Grave du Pont** in 1603.

**Francois Grave du Pont** was the ship's captain, a navigator and a merchant.



They travelled on the ship called the **Bonne Renommee (The Good Fame)** which arrived in Tadoussac in **March of 1603.**

From **Francois Du Pont**, Champlain learnt about navigation on the **St Lawrence River and in North America**, and the dealings with the **Natives in Acadia** and along the St Lawrence River.



He created **a map of the St Lawrence**, publishing an account of his trip entitled, *‘Concerning the Savages: or Travels of Samuel Champlain of Brouages, made in New France in the year 1603’*.

CARTE GEOGRAPHIQUE DE LA NOUVELLE FRANCE FAICTTE PAR LE SIEVR DE CHAMPLAIN SAINT TONGOIS CAPPITAINE ORDINAIRE POUR LE ROY EN LA MARINE. Juin 1612



Observations d'anciennes descriptions de la Nouvelle France	A. Port fortune	H. Cap corneille	P. s' l'orient	Y. Port de sainte	6. Baye de gones	14. Illes rouges
Cap breton 44. de 50. m	Sainte croix 17. de 32. m	B. Baye blanche	L. Ile au caennais	Z. Passage du glas	7. Ile perdue	15. Baye s' lict
C. de la heue 10. de 12. m	R. de naverebourg 18. de 30. m	C. Baye aux illes	K. Cap des deux bayes	G. Port aux angles	8. Cap de mine	16. Passage du gas
Baye s' lict 17. de 18. m	Quintequepa 19. de 12. m	D. Cap des illes	L. P' aux mines	S. B. sainte Margyrie	9. Port aux coquilles	17. Coste de monnemoy
Port royal 17. de 8. m	Malle barre 18. de 10. m	E. Port aux aller	M. Cap fourchu	T. Port s' lictaine	10. Illes unelles	18. B. de champlain
en la grande 17. de 21. de grece	F. Ile haute	N. Cap Negre	N. Cap Negre	V. Mairie ille	11. C. s' Jean	19. B. sainte marie
Par les 17. de Champlain	G. Ile des mont de croix	O. Port de sainte croix	O. Port de sainte croix	X. Illes rouges	12. C. s' Jean	20. Ile de la sainte
					13. L. s' Jean	21. Ile de baquis





In this account, he chronicled the good relationships that had been established between the **French and the Montagnais Indians of Tadoussac**, and some of their **Algonquin friends**. He also gave an account of his meetings with the **Montagnais chief - Begourat**.



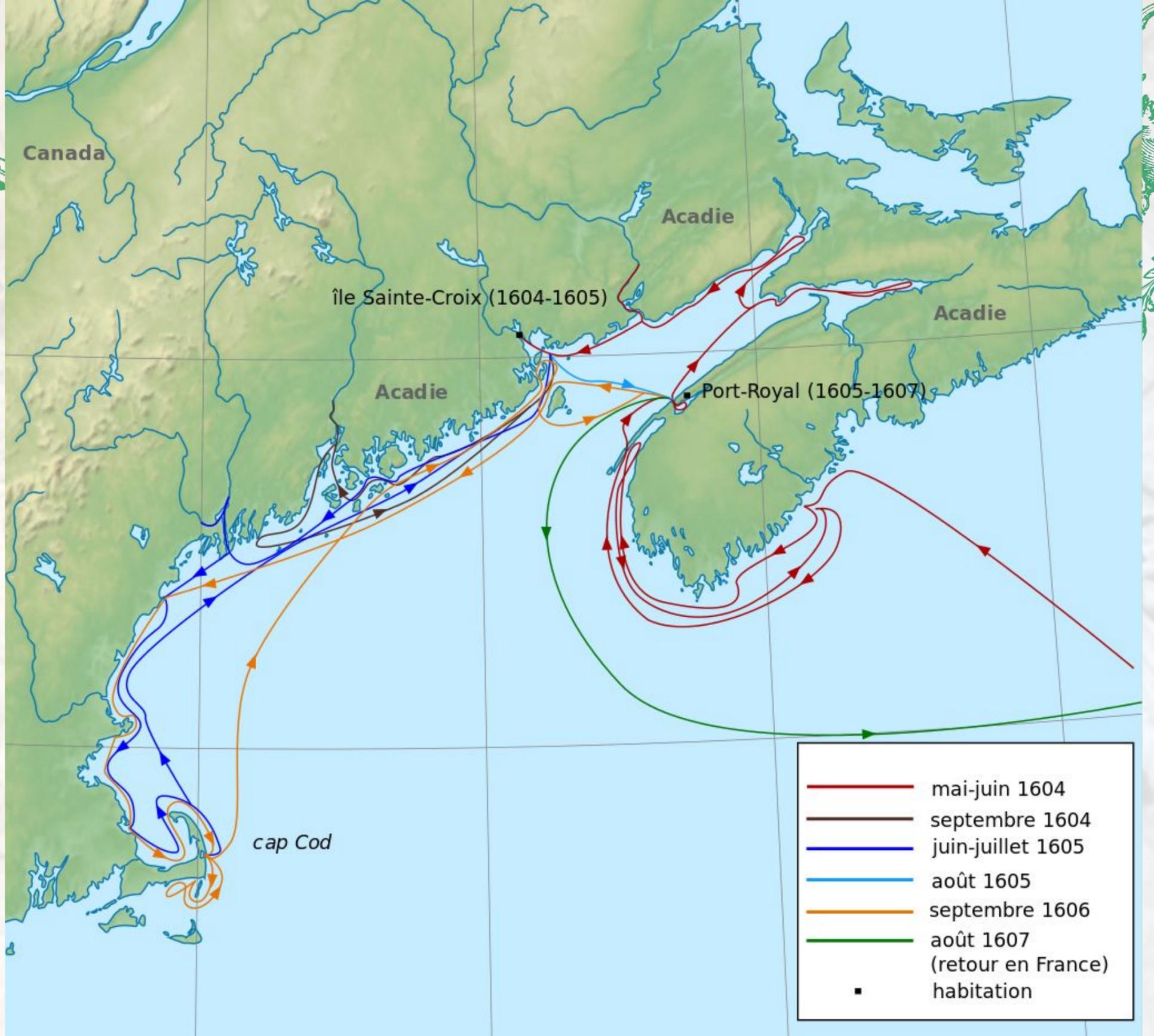
In 1604, he participated in ***another exploratory expedition - to Acadia, promising King Henry IV a report*** on further discoveries.

The expedition was led by **Pierre Du Gua De Monts, the Huguenot nobleman** and merchant who had been given a fur trading monopoly by **King Henry IV.**



**Du Gua de Monts** depended on Champlain's expertise in finding a suitable geographic location for the intended colony.

At first, the choice was **St Croix Island**, but after the first winter that proved to be inhospitable, the colony was moved to **Port Royal on Champlain's advice.**



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<http://umaine.edu/canam/publications/st-croix/champlain-and-the-settlement-of-acadia-1604-1607/>, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
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**Champlain** also used that site as his base to explore the **Atlantic coast**, venturing as far south as **Cape Cod** in his search for a possible permanent location.

He had some minor conflicts with the Natives of that area called the **Nausets**.



In the **Spring of 1608**, Du Gua de Monts asked Champlain to start **two new French colonies** and **fur trading centres** at Du Gua's own expense, on the St Lawrence, at **Tadoussac** and **Quebec**.



Du Gua outfitted 2 ships with workers, which left the port of **Honfleur**.

The ships were the **Don-de-Dieu or Gift of God** of which Champlain was the commander and the **Levrier or Hunt Dog** captained by **Francois Grave Du Pont**, which arrived in **June of 1608**.





They left the ships at Tadoussac, transporting the men and materials upstream to Quebec.

In **July 1608**, Champlain built **3 main 2-storey buildings with wooden palisades** and a **12' moat** surrounding them.

These he collectively called **the 'Habitation'**.



So began the formation of **Quebec City**.

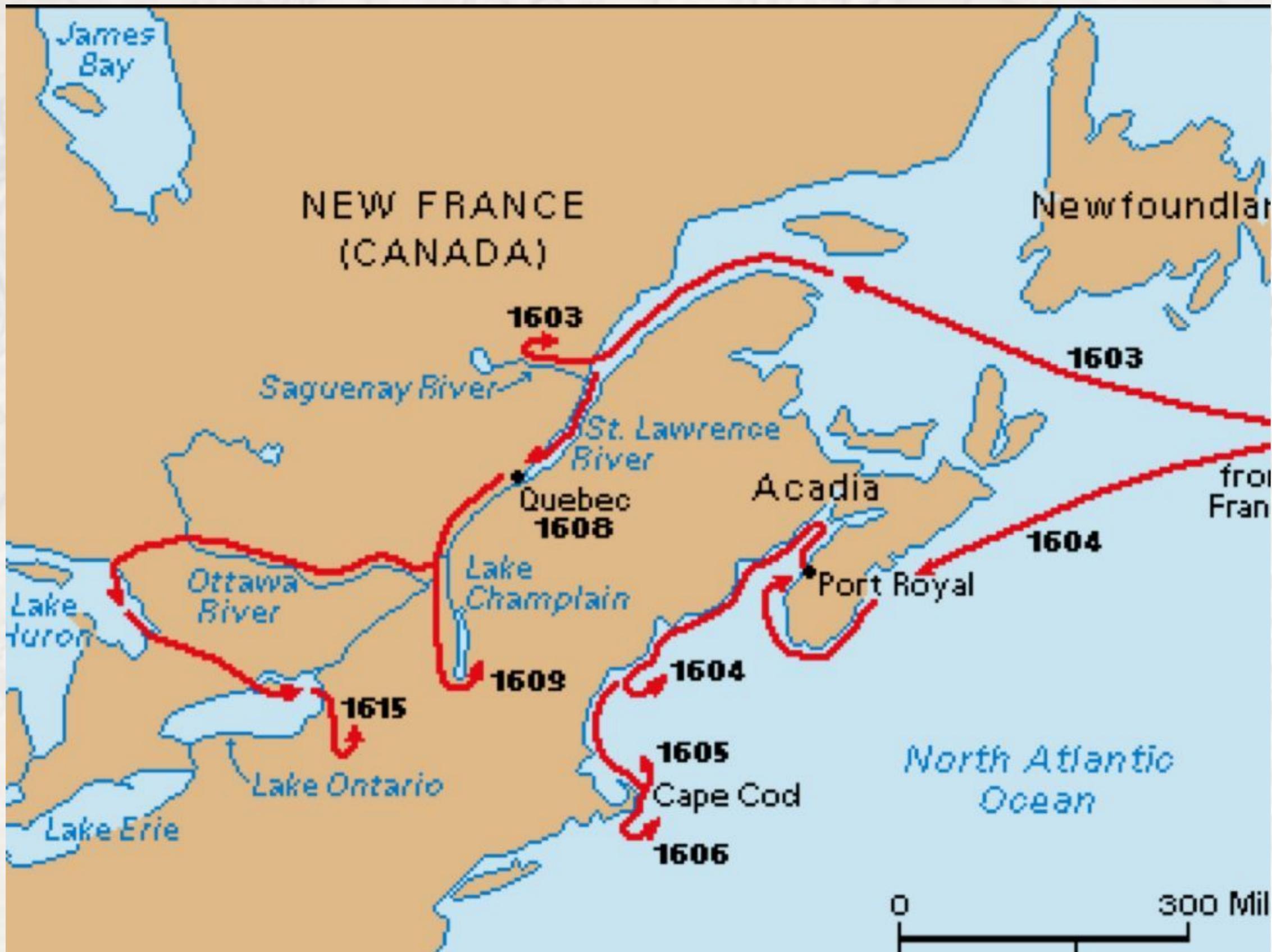
He was able to plant gardens, and do further explorations to the west.

In the **Summer of 1609**, Champlain actively pursued developing alliances with the local Native Tribes.



The **Wendat or Hurons, the Algonquins, the Montagnais and the Etchemins** who lived along the St. Lawrence, all became allies of Champlain.

These tribes were all **enemies of the Iroquois**, who lived further south in what is now known as upstate New York.





They demanded that Champlain help them go to war against their enemy.

Champlain set off with **300 Natives and 9 soldiers** to search for the enemy along the **Rivière des Iroquois (now known as the Richelieu River)**.



He became the first person to map the lake named after him - **Lake Champlain** during this engagement.

When no sight was seen of the Iroquois, most of the Natives and soldiers abandoned the effort, leaving Champlain with **2 soldiers and 60 Natives.**



On **July 29th 1609** somewhere in upstate New York, they suddenly came upon the **Iroquois** around **Ticonderoga**.

In the ensuing battle on **July 30th**, the 3 chiefs were identified by his Native guide.



**Champlain shot 2 of the chiefs** with one shot of his arquebus or hand cannon, while one of his men shot the other.

The rest of the Iroquois ran away.

This war **set the tone for French/Iroquois** relations for the next century.



A similar thing happened against the **Mohawks**.

In **June of 1610**, at **Sorel-Tracy Quebec**, the French gathered as allies of the **Wyandot**, the **Innu**, the **Montagnais** and the **Algonquins**.

The power of the arquebus helped to **kill or capture all of the Mohawks**, giving the allied **Natives peace for at least 20 years**.