



Press release
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Jacques Cartier map shines on the Gaspé Peninsula

Carleton, July 9, 2009 – Jacques Cartier, who discovered New France, explored the coast of the Gaspé Peninsula in 1534, from the mouth of the Restigouche River to Forillon Point, passing by Gaspé, where he planted his cross in the name of the king of France, François I. To highlight this historic act, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has designed the Jacques Cartier map, retracing the voyage made by the explorer from Saint-Malo.

This afternoon, the Jacques Cartier map will be officially presented in Carleton-sur-Mer at 4:00 pm. The Tracadieche Eco-Museum has organized an evening of activities to celebrate this important moment. From 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Foyer du Quai des Arts, there will be activities to bring together the artists and people of Carleton with a group of artists from the Vendée who are staying in the Baie-des-Chaleurs. Jacques Cartier will be the historical link between the past and present, between Europe and America. At 7:00 pm, a plaque celebrating Cartier's arrival in Carleton at Tracadigash Point will be unveiled at the location where Cartier landed on July 9, 1534. At 7:30 pm, historian Mario Mimeault will lead a discussion on Jacques Cartier's first voyage at the cottage on Tracadigash Point.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be present at the festivities. The sector bureau, together with Robert Dorais and Paul Bellemare from the Canadian Hydrographic Service and the invaluable collaboration of the Musée de la Gaspésie, has donated a commemorative map of the French explorer's first voyage to America to the Corporation des Fêtes de Gaspé 2009. The map notes the crew's primary stops, its encounters with First Nations peoples, and includes several anecdotes about the voyage. It also summarizes some of Cartier's original texts and shows the toponymy of the locations as he reported them. This map is overflowing with historical content and we thank Jean-Marie Fallu, editor-in-chief of the magazine *Gaspésie*, for his invaluable work. Claudine Roy noted that she was "extremely honoured by this gesture. The Jacques Cartier map is a very precious gift that will remain in our memory for the 475 years to come! The involvement of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Musée de la Gaspésie bears witness to this Celebration's importance for the Gaspé community."

Already unveiled in Gaspé this summer, the Jacques Cartier map will be officially presented to three other cities on the Gaspé Peninsula, Paspébiac, Percé, Port-Daniel, as well as to three First Nations communities, Gescapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj. Additionally, as this is an historic first and a highly important educational document, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has also requested that copies of the map be given to the libraries and schools of the Gaspé Peninsula.

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