

# *An Historical Time Line of the Frontenac Historic District*



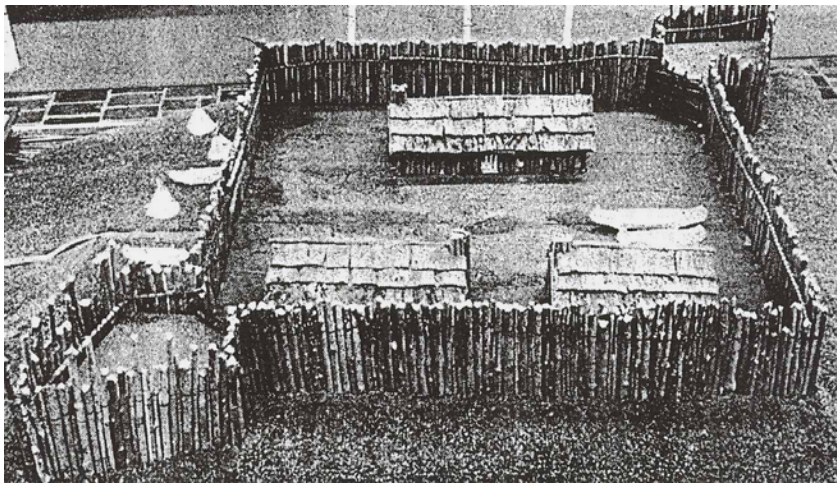
*A Publication of the  
Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission*

## **Dates of Distinction**

Frontenac's evolution from the original European explorations to its modern day historic preservation is illustrated by the time stamps of its people, buildings, landscape, and events.



**Count Louis de Buade de Frontenac  
1620 -1698**



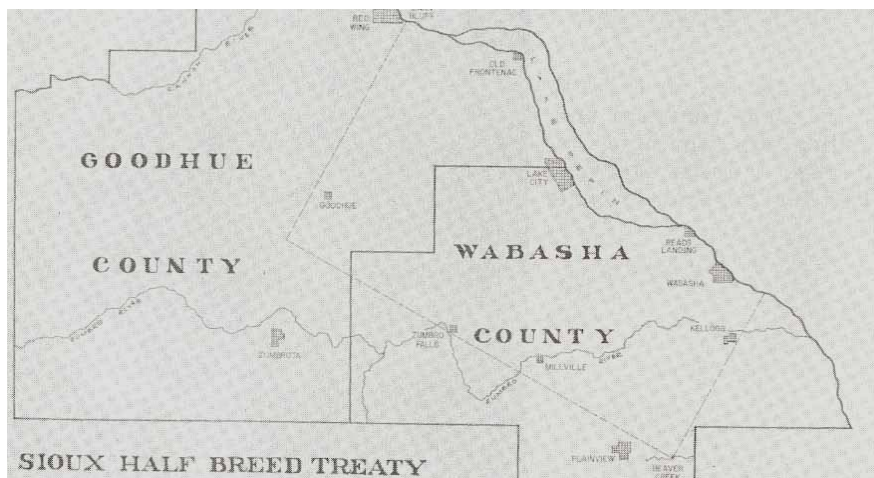
**Fort Beauharnois – 1727  
Model found in 1731 French Historical Documents**

**1680.** Count Frontenac, Governor of New France (headquartered in Montreal, then called Villa Maria) sponsors European explorers such as LeSueur, Hennepin, and Pepin to the area.

**1727.** The French construct Fort Beauharnois near the present site of Villa Maria to protect their fur trading interests in the area. The fort, named after Marquis de Beauharnois, then Governor of New France, contained the Chapel of St. Michael, the first Christian church in the area.



**James Wells  
1804 – 1863**



**Sioux Half Breed Land Act Map  
Rectangular Plat with Lake Pepin on the NE Boundary**

**1837.** James (Bully) Wells and his wife Jane establish a fur trading post at the future site of Frontenac, then called Western Landing (called Waconia by the Native Americans). Wells and Alexander Faribault, territorial legislators that married Native American mixed race sisters (Jane and Elizabeth Graham), were granted the land that is now Frontenac through their wives by the Half Breed Land Act. Jane and Elizabeth Graham were the daughters of fur trader Duncan Graham and Hazahatwin, daughter of a Dakota chief. Wells later moved to Wells Township, Rice County, MN, which is near Faribault, MN, a city founded by Alexander Faribault. Wells was killed during the Sioux Uprising in 1863.