

time, had, from the time of his arrival, been studying the trade and Indian problem and adopting the recommendation of his predecessors, concluded to erect a fort near the outlet of Lake Ontario, which would serve the double purpose of holding in check the restless Iroquois and controlling the fur trade of the upper country. La Salle had won the confidence of the Governor, who despatched him in advance to locate the site of the new fort, while he made elaborate preparations for his imposing trip up the St. Lawrence. The original design was to erect the fort upon the Bay of Quinte and, but for La Salle, who chose the mouth of the Cataraqui instead, Kingston would have been shorn of a portion of her glory and our county would in all probability have enjoyed the distinction of possessing the first military and trading-post in this part of Canada.

There is a general belief, which appears to be well founded, that the Governor saw in this new enterprise an opportunity to reap a rich harvest from the cargoes of furs that would naturally find their way to the new fort, and subsequent developments appear to justify the conclusion that La Salle expected to enjoy a portion of the profits. In any event the establishment of a post at the foot of the lake was one step in his design and brought a possible base of supplies nearer the scene of his own future operations.

La Salle repaired to Onondaga, the chief village of the Iroquois, to invite them to meet the great Onontio, as the Governor was styled, at the rendezvous upon the banks of the Cataraqui. On July 12th, 1673, Frontenac, arrayed in his richest apparel, the centre of attraction of a flotilla of a hundred and twenty canoes, manned by four hundred followers, was received with great pomp on the site of what is now the Limestone City. The following days were spent in outlining the new fort, haranguing the Iroquois, and in council meetings and festivities calculated to inspire them with fear and respect for the Great White Father.

Meanwhile the Frenchmen in the district who were skilled in the use of their tools, set to work felling trees, hewing them into shape, and placing them in position under the direction of the engineer; and to the astonishment of the Iroquois there soon arose the first building on the site of the present City of Kingston, which in honour of its founder was afterwards called Fort Frontenac. There can be no doubt that it served its purpose of keeping the hostile Indians in check, but was not calculated to improve the trade of the country in general, as was quite evident from the storm of opposition raised by the merchants of Quebec. After the ceremonies were concluded and the Iroquois had returned across the lake, a number of representatives from Kenté and Ganneious appeared upon the scene to pay their respects to the Great