

Jacques Cartier Cross

by Morris Patterson
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In 1534, Jacques Cartier. planted a cross in the Gaspé Peninsula and claimed the land in the name of King Francis I. It was the first province of New France.



“We had a cross made thirty feet high, which was put together in the presence of a number of the [Stadacona] Indians on the point [opposite Sandy Beach] at the entrance to this harbour, under the cross-bar of which we fixed a shield with three fleurs-de-lys in relief, and above it a wooden board, engraved in large Gothic characters, where was written, LONG LIVE THE KING OF FRANCE. We erected this cross on the point in their presence and they watched it being put together and set up. And when it had been raised in the air, we all knelt down with our hands joined, worshipping it before them...”²



In 1934 the cross arrived in Gaspé by boat, then hauled up Robin's hill on the way to its first location on Main Street (now Rue De La Reine).

Some believe it was, for a short period, at the site of the Musée de la Gaspésie, taken there when the museum opened in 1977. (Note: This may be incorrect.)

In 1979 it was moved and placed in front of the Cathédrale du Christ-Roi (about 100 metres north-east of its first location).¹

In 2012 the Jacques Cartier Cross was relocated once more. It now rests on the "National Historic Site of the Point of Old Gaspé" on the south side of the highway, directly across from Place Jacques Cartier. The site is presently under construction. Further information related to the project can be found on the CCTG web site http://cctgaspe.org/?page_id=2369&lang=en



1. "Gaspé through the years" P. 534
2. Excerpt from **The Illustrated History of Canada**, edited by Craig Brown, ©1997, Key Porter Books Limited, Toronto, Ontario.

