

The New World of Champlain web series

This web series is made up of 7, 30-minute episodes. Originally produced in French, it has been translated and the episodes can be viewed on *YouTube*.

The series, suitable for students 12 years and older, presents in detail with images and voice-over narration, Samuel de Champlain's two journeys in Ontario (1613 and 1615-1616). You meet the fascinating people described by Champlain himself.

At the same time, two real-life young Franco-Ontarians, Julie, an Aboriginal descendant, and Kundera, who has African roots, tell their stories and talk about the French-language communities of Ontario today and their relation to Champlain.

The production involved 900 actors and extras and the episodes were filmed on location at the Ska-Nah-Doh Village and Museum in Mount Brydges, the First Nation Nipissing reserve, Huronia Museum and Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland, on the French River, Lake Ontario, Acadia, Honfleur in France and in Mexico.

The New World of Champlain was created and directed by Félix Saint-Denis and produced by l'Écho d'un peuple. The series aims to serve as a powerful cultural and educational tool.

Descriptions of the 7 episodes

See the episodes on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWqI_H_17j9xn6R2j0jWBRQ

Episode 1: The Birth of a Dream (28 min 13 sec)

We travel to Brouage and see Samuel de Champlain's maritime childhood, the violent wars that he experienced in his teens and as a soldier in Europe. We then travel with Champlain to the paradise and hell he sees during his trip to the Caribbean and Mexico where he witnesses horrors that changed his way of seeing the world. We then follow the young father of New France as he founds Acadia and Québec with a handful of dreamers.

Episode 2: The curtain rises on a New World (32 min 16 sec)

Samuel de Champlain's journey of 1613 where he travels up the Ottawa River as far as Allumette Island. The story Nicolas de Vignau has told him about his journey to the Sea of the North turns out to be a lie.

Episode 3: The long way back to the Kitchissippi (28 min 36 sec)

April 1615. Samuel de Champlain is in Honfleur in France. The explorer is getting ready for his seventh trip to the New World. From the Great Lake of the Hurons, Champlain hopes at last to find a passage to the Western Sea, the Pacific Ocean, that will lead him to China. Four missionaries embark with him,

including the colourful Joseph Le Caron. After crossing the ocean in a record time of just one month, Champlain attends to business in his Québec settlement. In July, Étienne Brûlé and Wendat paddlers guide Champlain to Huronia. The young interpreter, Thomas Godefroy travels with him once again during this second journey to the Upper Country, Ontario. The French and the Wendats paddle up the Kitchississippi, the Great Ottawa River, and then travel west along the Mattawa River. The paddlers face many perils, like the famous Talon and la Vase portages. But another altogether different menace awaits them at Lake Nipissing... Chief Tessouat has previously warned Champlain: the Nipissings are “dangerous sorcerers”! Julie is intrigued: she has ancestors among the Nipissings... Kundera fears the worst: are Champlain and his young companions heading straight to their death?

Episode 4: From the Nipissing to the Mer Douce (Freshwater Sea) (24 min 35 sec)

Late July 1615. After having paddled up the Ottawa and Mattawa Rivers, Samuel de Champlain reaches Lake Nipissing in the greater North Bay area. Champlain, Étienne Brûlé, the interpreter Thomas Godefroy and their Huron-Wendat paddlers receive a warm welcome from the Nipissing First Nation. During their stay with them they get some rest. The French admire how these Anishinabe-Algonquins live. Grouped in family units, they move their wigwams in harmony with the rhythm of the hunting, fishing and berry gathering seasons. It's believed that Étienne Brûlé also continued establishing bonds of friendship between the French and the Anishnabe in his own particular way. Champlain has learned that, next spring, the Nipissing plan to travel to the North Sea, that is Hudson's Bay. As his expedition travels down the perilous French River, Champlain no doubt dreams about the vastness of Northern Ontario. Will he, one day, see his New France flourish here? At the mouth of the French River, the expedition meets the Ottawa First Nation. Arriving in Georgian Bay, the great lake of the Hurons, Champlain is disappointed: it's a Sea of Fresh water... He thus realizes that crossing this body of water will not lead directly to the Pacific Ocean and China! The expedition is now in the final stretch on the road to Wendaké... the land of the Huron! Julie is really looking forward to discovering the world of her Wendat ancestors... In what way are they different from her Anishinabe ancestors? Kundera is also asking himself a lot of questions... Why is it that Étienne, who has been living among the Hurons for the last five years, enjoys it so much?

Episode 5: Sunshine in Huronia... Thunder in Iroquois Country (28 min 40 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCWZHdwe1e0>

August 1615. Samuel de Champlain finally reaches the land of the Huron. His guide, Étienne Brûlé, shows him Toanché, the village where he has chosen to live, on the shores of Penetanguishene Bay. Thomas Godefroy and Champlain are impressed by the warm welcome of the Huron-Wendat who live in harmony with the corn cycle. In the village of Carhagouha, they meet up again with their French compatriots including the missionary Joseph Le Caron. There, they take part in the first mass celebrated in Ontario in the presence of Champlain. They travel from village to village as the Wendat army prepares to go to war against the Onondagas.

September. In Orillia, Étienne Brûlé leaves Champlain to travel to the land of the Andaste and enlist their help. Champlain meets up again with Chief Iroquet and his Algonquin warriors at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, in the Kingston area. Travelling to the south of Lake Ontario, together the Huron-Wendat, the Algonquins-Anishinabe and the French race to attack the enemy.

Mid-October. The allies have reached the Iroquois Onondaga fortress, near Syracuse. Étienne Brûlé and the reinforcements are not at the rendezvous point. The attack is launched prematurely. There is great confusion on the battle field... Champlain, Iroquet, Darontal and Orani have problems maintaining order among their troops. Ochateguain is wounded. The Iroquois arrows are raining down on the attackers!

Episode 6: The Winter of spiritual beliefs in Wendaké (27 min 38 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02PLVfA4hiE>

October 1615. Samuel de Champlain is wounded during the battle with the Haudenosaunees-Onontagués in Iroquois country. Chiefs Orani and Ochateguain are also grievously injured. Champlain is forced to spend the winter with the Huron-Wendats. November. During the return trip to Huronia, Champlain loses himself in the forest for four days during a deer hunt. December. In the village of Cahiagué, near Orillia, the family of chief Darontal welcomes and takes care of Champlain. During Champlain's tale, Julie admires the way of life of her Wendat ancestors who lived in long houses led by the circle of grandmothers. January 1616. Recovered from his wounds, Champlain seeks out the missionary Le Caron and the French take advantage of the opportunity to visit other First Nations to the west. Through the writings of Champlain, Kundera discovers the spirituality and beliefs that many Natives share. The French meet the Tabacco nation, the Pétun. Once again they visit with the Ottawas, that they called the High Hairs. These nations ask Champlain to, come next spring, continue waging war on their Iroquois enemies. Champlain politely turns them down, but learns of the existence of a peaceful nation living to the southwest... The Attiouandaronks. Are the members of this peaceful nation the people Champlain needs to call upon to succeed in creating his New World?

Episode 7: We will be one people (30 min 37 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCjdLIXAgw>

Champlain spends the winter of 1615-1616 in Huronia among the Wendats. He takes advantage of his stay to explore the lands to the west and visit the Pétun.