Contrary to the legend left by the class books, the Hurons and Iroquois were not living nomads scattered; they lived in fortified villages, that is, houses that could contain between seven and seventy families. Contrary to popular belief, Chef Donnacona (Domagaya), hence the origin of the name of the city, did not live on the banks of the Jacques-Cartier River but rather on the banks of the St. Charles River in Quebec where was the City of Stadacona.

Following the discovery of a huge amount of gold by the Spanish in South America, the French empire wants at any price to compete with its rival state and decides to send Jacques Cartier discover equivalent wealth.

Returning from his first voyage in 1534, Jacques Cartier left with Donnacona's two sons, with whom he returned on his second voyage. During his second trip, Cartier took him to France with nine other Native Americans by kidnapping him on the occasion of a party given by the French on May 3, 1536. None ever returned to the Americas.

In France, he discovered France in the summer of 1536. We do not know anything about the daily life of Donnacona in France. He is said to have had many interviews with Father Thévet, a great chronicler of "American affairs". He also met several times with King Francis I.

Donnacona created a considerable movement in France, influencing King Francis I to the point of projecting the establishment of a colony in 1541 in Cap-Rouge. He was the first to have established diplomatic relations with the French against a backdrop of rivalries between Indian leaders. Indeed, according to Serge Bouchard, "he maintains the Stadaconean dream of being the greatest Canadian power among its neighboring peoples". To interest the French, he told Cartier the existence of the kingdom of Saguenay, by fabulous tales, taken for realities by Europeans, and even came to the ears of Spaniards who sent conquistadors to the north, from Florida and Texas.

He also saved the lives of the first French scurvy, giving them a remedy based on balsam fir, during the wintering of the second Cartier expedition.

The years passed and he hoped to return to his country. He died mysteriously in France in 1539, just before Cartier's last voyage, at the age of 60 and without having seen Canada again (birth: approx 1485). He would be buried under the pavement of a street in Old Paris, according to Pantagruel of Rabelais. Jean Pictet, The Epic of the Redskins, Editions Favre 1988, p.112.

Havard Gilles and Vidal Cécile, History of French America; Barcelona, Flammarion, 2003 (Ed revised and expanded 2008).
It was in 1672 that intendant Jean Talon conceded to a man named Toupin du Sault-à-la-pace and his son Jean, the responsibility to open the territory. Founded in 1742, the Squirrel Parish owes its name to the fact that it is covered with oaks inhabited by squirrels. In 1967, by proclamation of the governor general, the municipality of Les Écureuils was merged with that of Donnacona, whose foundation dates back to 1915.

Although the industrial presence dates from the year 1700, the arrival of the Donnacona Paper Ltd (1912), is at the origin of an extremely rapid urban development. One of the big clients of "Donnacona Paper Ltd" was the New York Times newspaper. In times of great activity, more than 1,500 men worked for a salary of $ 0.40 an hour in 1940 and 48-hour workweeks. Unfortunately, the paper mill closed permanently in 2008.

The first convent was built in 1922. At the time, the religious assumed education. The sisters for the girls at the Sainte-Agnès convent and the brothers for the boys at the Sacré-Cœur college. Located in the heart of the Portneuf activity, this town, one of the youngest in the Portneuf RCM, represents a hub of employment and an important service center in the Portneuf MRC.

Located between the Jacques-Cartier River, the Félix-Leclerc Highway (40) and the St. Lawrence River, the city of Donnacona enjoys a strategic location where, over time, several businesses, institutions and organizations with a regional influence.

The city of Donnacona celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015.
The images are courtesy of Ms. Francine Matte from Quebec City