

## Life in New France

### **The Drive to Settle**

- British colonies in today's United States grew at a rapid rate compared to the growth in New France
- Fearing Britain would attempt to take control of New France and expand its territory in North America, the French monarchy pushed to settle the region
  - More settlers meant it would be harder for a British takeover

### **The Seigniorial System**

- Large lots of land were given to *seigneurs* (land lords) who were in charge of bringing in *habitants* (peasant farmers) to work the land
- The lots were divided off into many long thin strips of land to be given to the habitants as they settled in the area
  - Most strips of land ended at the river to give everyone equal access to water
    - Good for cultivation, drinking water, & transportation

### **Duties of the Seigneur**

- Expected to be loyal to the king
- Build and live on the seigneurie
- Provide a local court to settle disputes
- Attract habitants to settle on his seigneurie
- Build a mill
- Sponsor a church
- Pay for basic infrastructure

### **Duties of the Habitant**

- Expected to be loyal to the seigneur
- Build a home & live in it
- Pay rent & taxes
- Work the seigneurs land up to one week / year
- Help build & maintain roads
- Give money to the church (tithe)