



Ecorse means “River of Bark.” The word “Ecorces” is the French word for bark and the French translation of La Riviere aux Ecorces is “the river of bark.”

Huron Indians buried their chiefs near the sandbanks of this stream after wrapping the bodies in the bark of the birch trees growing in the nearby woods.

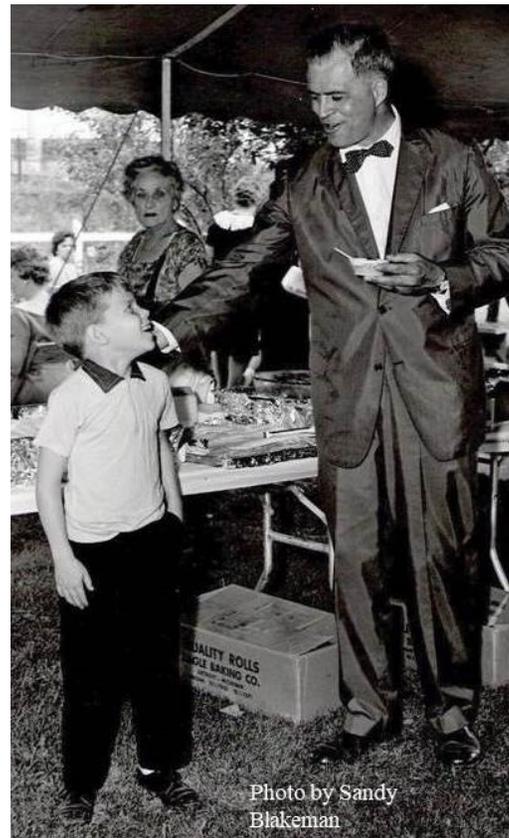


Photo by Sandy Blakeman

Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams interacts with a young Ecorse citizen during a celebration at the Detroit waterfront. Behind him is Ecorse resident Mrs. Ella Lajoie. Gerhard Mennen "Soapy" Williams (February 23, 1911 – February 2, 1988) was the 41st Governor of Michigan, elected in 1948 and serving six two-year terms in office.

# Echoes of Ecorse

January 14, 2019

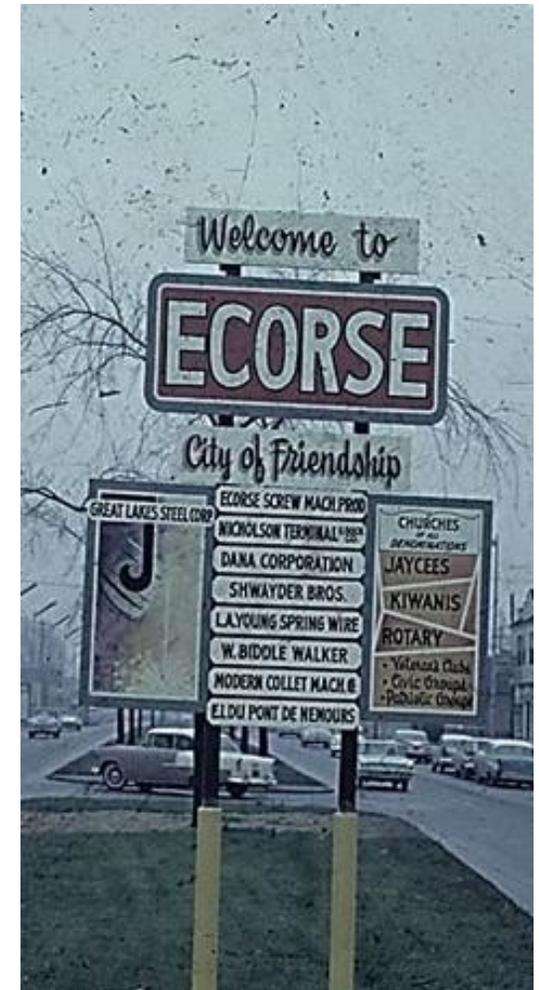




Photo by Sandy Blakeman

## Time Tips-Ecorse

1700s-First settled by French Habitants under Antoine Cadillac.

**1763**-Rendezvous for Pontiac.

**1764**-Tradition has it that the Labadie family arrived in the area.

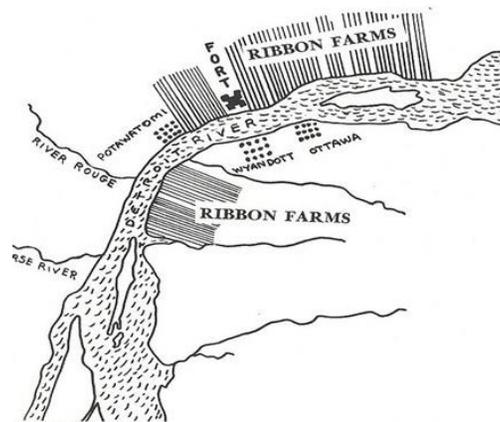
**1776**-Deeded to St. Cosme by Indians.

**1784-1795**-First Recorded White Settlements. Pierre Michael Campau is supposed to have been the first white settler, arriving in 1795.

**1818**-Arrival of English Settlers.

## Ecorse: the City of History and Friendship

Ecorse is the oldest Downriver Community, first settled by French habitants under Antoine Cadillac in the early 1700s. Cadillac granted ribbon farms to French settlers on both sides of the Detroit River, above Fort Pontchartrain (Detroit) and Downriver as well. Most of the ribbon farms ranged from one to five arpents wide – an arpent was 192 ½ feet. They extended inland from the river for one and a half to three miles. The ribbon arrangement gave the settlers easy canoe access to their highway, the Detroit River, and the long narrow farms were easier to defend.



Maps of the ribbon farms contain French family names, including Beaubien, Campau, Chene, DeQuindre, Navarre, and St. Aubin. Tradition says Labadie family arrived in what became Ecorse Township in 1764.

1818. Arrival of English settlers.

1827. Township of Ecorse.

1834. Village of Grandport.

1845. St. Francis Xavier Parish.

1860s. First Schools in Ecorse Township.

1873. Grandport/Ecorse featured 15 businesses including sawmills, lumber companies, hotels, and a blacksmith shop with J.B. Montie, blacksmith.

1902. Ecorse is incorporated a village.

1903. Grandport officially becomes Ecorse.

1918-1933. Ecorse is “rum row.”

**1922.** First Library in Loveland’s Drugstore.

**1929** Great Lakes Steel.

**1941-1942.**Ecorse Becomes a City.

1940s-1950s. Ecorse enjoys post-World War II growth to a population of approximately 12,000 people.

1960s-2000s. Ecorse suffers economic distress along with the Downriver region, but is making a comeback.

For detailed Ecorse history click: [ecorsealongthedetroitriver](http://ecorsealongthedetroitriver)