

A Brief History of Ogden



Patrimoine d'Ogden - Héritage Ogden

Perhaps surprisingly for a small municipality like Ogden, there is a truly rich history to be uncovered. In this short booklet we have only been able to provide abbreviated versions of the various chapters of this history. We encourage the reader to explore more expanded articles on exactly the same topics (and more) on our website.

<http://www.heritageogden.ca>



Image on front cover.

Circa 1900. Beatrice Weir (at right) and her sister Wyn sitting on a fence overlooking pasture and fields of the Hall and Bullis farms near Cedarville. Tea Table and Province islands in the distance.

Photo taken by their brother, Douglas Weir (1873-1918).

From a glass plate negative and a large format camera.

Photograph from the Simpson Collection and used with permission.

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Image sur la couverture.

Vers 1900. Beatrice Weir et sa sœur Wyn assises sur une clôture surplombant les pâturages des fermes Hall et Bullis près de Cédarville. Au loin, l'île de la Table à thé et l'île de la Province.

Photographe Douglas Weir (1873-1918).

À partir d'un négatif sur plaque de verre et d'un appareil photo grand format

Utilisée grâce à la permission de la collection Simpson.



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Preface

Does Ogden even have a history?

Nestled against the eastern shores of beautiful Lake Memphremagog, and situated adjacent to the international border with the United States, lies the small rural and picturesque Municipality of Ogden. Demographically it is a relatively insignificant part of the Eastern Townships of Quebec, with approximately 540 households occupying its 8,410 ha territory on a permanent or seasonal basis. During the peak of summer vacation, perhaps there are 1500 residents along with their entourages of dogs and cats and other guests. The area is certainly much beloved by its inhabitants, but few would concede to much appreciation of its history, or even acknowledge the municipality has one!

To be honest, even our committee was sceptical, but much to our surprise and delight, Ogden and its predecessor jurisdictions, and the territory they represent, have a truly captivating history and prehistory.

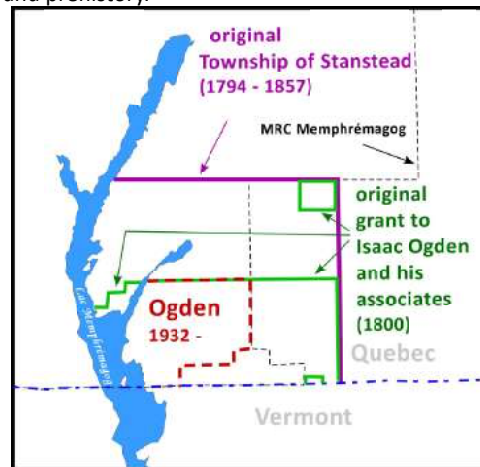
In this booklet we have merely attempted to capture some of the highlights of this story as we journey from 12,000 years ago up into the 1950s.

We encourage those whose curiosity is piqued, to explore this history in more detail on our website,
www.heritageogden.ca

We hope that you, the reader, will find this small local history as intriguing and enjoyable to peruse, as we did in researching and writing it.

With pleasure,

The committee for Patrimoine d'Ogden – Heritage Ogden



Map showing the location of the current Municipality of Ogden, as well as the old Township of Stanstead and the land grant in 1800 to Isaac Ogden & Associates

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Acknowledgements

The history booklet committee of Patrimoine d'Ogden consisted of Jeffrey Packard, Marie-Andrée Courval, Tom Montgomery, Michel Hébert and Christine Renaud. The idea for this project was first promoted by Mayor Richard Violette and we thank him and Ogden Council for their encouragement and financial support for the past two years. We would also like to thank the MRC Memphremagog for its funding of this project.

Some of the material for the various sections in the booklet were borrowed from our historical poster series, and as we have not generally attributed authorship for either the posters or booklet sections, it is certainly appropriate here to list the contributors alphabetically. For the posters these were: Louise Abbott, Paul Carignan, David Lepitre, Bill May, Tom Montgomery, and Jeffrey Packard. We thank them all profusely. Articles for the present booklet were written or co-authored by: Paul Carignan, Marie-Andrée Courval, Michel Hébert, Peter Lépine, Bill May, Tom Montgomery, Jeffrey Packard, Christine Renaud, Stephen Simpson, Michael Sudlow, and Eleanor Ward. If an article in this booklet has no author attribution, then it was written by a member of our booklet committee.

A number of Ogden residents and non-Ogdenites kindly agreed to review and correct earlier drafts of the articles, and we are very grateful for their comments and suggestions for improvements. These readers/reviewers were: Louise Abbott, John Banks, Jean Bourque, James Bullock, Joane Duquette, Gilbert Elliott, Jamie Farfan, Matthew Farfan, Christiane Quirion, Dale Rediker, Peter Southam and Eleanor Ward.

Translation, linguistic adaptation and revisions were provided by Marie-Andrée Courval, Michel Hébert, Tom Montgomery, and Jeff Packard. Layout was the responsibility of Jeff Packard and final editing fell into the capable hands of Marie-Andrée Courval and Keith Wilcox.

Informal discussion with a number of local residents has greatly enlightened our understanding of Ogden's history. Special thanks go out to Wynn Dustin, Dale Rediker, Bob Sheldon and the late Alan Bullock. The following institutional archives have provided data, images, and search assistance: Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, Library and Archives Canada, Eastern Townships Research Center, Notman Archives (McCord Museum), Bibliothèque national de France, and National Archives (U.K.).

We are particularly grateful to Kathy Curtis and the Stanstead Historical Society for allowing us to utilize a number of images from their archives. Other key contributors of graphic material utilized in the booklet include Jeff Packard, Tom Montgomery, Gilbert Elliott, Jim Bullock, Stephen Simpson, Walter Jacobi, Eleanor Ward, Bea Nelson and Barbara Malloy.



Custom drone aerial photography was done by Tom Montgomery. Georgeville artist Gael Eakin generously contributed original sketches to illustrate historical scenes.

Finally we thank all residents of Ogden who, in one way or another, value our collective history and heritage. The final word most certainly has not been written, and we encourage our fellow citizens to continue to share their memories, their stories, their old photos, their old documents and other memorabilia. We would love to hear from you!

A Vanishing Legacy



Old buildings are disappearing from our Ogden landscape in many ways. This old farmhouse in Lineboro from the 1880s was razed to train volunteer firefighters.

The citizens of Ogden are extraordinarily fortunate to reside in a rural and partially still-wild landscape, considered by many to be profoundly beautiful. If we are honest, a large part of our strong appreciation of this place, resides also in the transformed landscape – the winding tree-shaded country roads, the rolling pastures and fields, and the scattered 19th century rural architecture that lend such a pleasing sense of grace and history to the environment. This built heritage may have a more subtle hold on our conscious sensibilities, but it is nonetheless greatly valued. **It is also at risk!**

The loss of rural architectural heritage is almost always a generally unremarkable but unrelenting phenomenon. The buildings and the history they embody are picked off one by one. In the end, our landscape loses ever more of its patina and charm. However it is not possible to be vigilant (and proactive) in matters of heritage preservation without knowing what is out there. The purpose of Ogden's **heritage building inventory** is to provide that knowledge.

If you own an older building (barn, farmhouse, cottage) we would love for you to share with us what you know about it, and allow us to add it to our inventory. Please contact us at info@heritageogden.ca

Message from the Mayor

Preserving some lasting memories



Over the years, decades and centuries, the history of people and families whose names still echo in our villages, hamlets, and countryside has been woven day after day. These families of yesteryears, were all witnesses to a past that has shaped our places, our mentalities and our beliefs. This history belongs to us and it is up to us to tell it to the greatest number of people and to those who will follow us.

The Municipality of Ogden, conscious of this duty to remember, has entrusted its Heritage Committee with the task of producing a short book recounting historical facts, memories and anecdotes collected over the years.

The task, apparently simple at first, was far from being so for the few enthusiastic volunteers and history buffs who took on the responsibility. However, after much effort and, no doubt, long hours of work, our dedicated historians were able to deliver the goods. On behalf of all our current and future citizens, I thank them warmly. They are a credit to us today. The fruit of their efforts is now and forever part of the fabric of our history. Older citizens will be happy to find facts, anecdotes and characters that they remember, while new ones will find a sense of belonging to this land and to the people who participated in the creation of our municipality.

Once again, thank you, proud Ogdenites of the Heritage Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Violette'.

Richard Violette
Mayor Ogden (2017-2021)



Message from Heritage Ogden

*Local histories of smaller municipalities can come in many forms, from a focus on families (admirably executed in 1997 with **Copp's Legacy: A Family History** for Georgeville's 200th anniversary, or the unpublished compilations assembled by Wynn Dustin for the area of Brown's Hill, Boynton, and Ticehurst Corners), to memoirs such as that written by Barbara Heath in **Remembering the Rose**. Such histories, are always interesting, filled with regional knowledge and lore, and represent perhaps the most thorough and vital of local histories. However, they require a high level of community engagement and input, encouraged over time. This was beyond our abilities or schedule.*

Instead what we have decided to attempt is a broader history, one that provides the "background" or context, in which the more personal and family stories can be inserted and better understood. A few persons from Ogden's past are mentioned in this booklet, but the list is embarrassingly short. However, the range of subjects covered is relatively inclusive. There should be topics of interest to be found within the covers, for most everyone.

Another challenge was the format of the booklet. A light-weight booklet, with a good balance of engaging informative text and lots of illustrations was desired. The font size may test your eyeglass prescription if it hasn't been recently renewed, and the detail in some images and maps will be difficult to perceive, unaided. These choices were deliberate, for there will be a high resolution pdf version of the booklet available for download on the Municipality website. On your tablet or smart phone you will be able to magnify portions of the booklet to your heart's content.

Like grains of sand falling through our fingers, memories of events and personalities large and small in our Municipality quickly elude our grasp. It is utterly impossible to ensnare the past in its entirety, at best we preserve mere glimpses. Worse, we tend to discredit our own stories as insignificant, not worth sharing, and yet these are the very threads that make up the fabric of local history. Heritage Ogden hopes that this booklet provides an enjoyable "glimpse" at our collective story, and acts as a spark encouraging the reader to share their own family memories, before they fade.

Most of all, on this occasion of our 90th anniversary, we hope the reader gains a new appreciation for Ogden and its colourful past.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Packard'.

Jeffrey (Jeff) Packard
President, Heritage Ogden / Patrimoine d'Ogden



