

Lecture 1 – Physical Geography

In General...

- Ontario = Iroquois word for “sparkling water” or “rocks standing by the water”
- Toronto = Iroquois word for “place of meeting”
- Second largest province, next to Quebec

Regions of Ontario

1. Canadian Shield

- Largest part, over half of Ontario
- Rocks, lake, and forest
- Igneous and metamorphic rock with high mountains eroded by ice down to rock ridges
- Lakes are the result of glaciation (scraped soil from rock)
- Thick boreal forest with coniferous trees
- Last ice age ended 15,000 years ago in Southern Ontario, 6,000 in Quebec
- Very thinly populated
- Infertile land with lots of minerals
- Divided into NW and NE

2. Interior Plains and Lowlands

a. Hudson Bay Plains

- Third largest wetland in the world
- Extreme North and Northeast
- Virtually unpopulated
- Slopes down towards sea at 1m per 1km
- Full of permafrost and swamps

b. Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Lowlands

- Split into two similar lowlands that are divided by arm of the shield called Frontenac Axis which runs from Kingston to the St. Lawrence River
- Cracks in the earth thousands of years ago spilt a rift valley, floor fell = lowlands
- Last ice age = high ocean = water in as far as Ottawa = flat landscape
- GL lowland is a biosphere reserve and the main feature is the Niagara Escarpment (receding – video), it is home to the vast majority of Canadian/Ontario citizens, features Niagara fruit belt
- Home to agriculture and industry
- Most populous

Climate

- Southern Ontario is mostly humid continental (humid summers and cold winters, well distributed precipitation)
 - o Three main air sources include polar (cold, dry, from north), pacific (from prairies), and subtropical (warm, moist, from Atlantic ocean and Gulf)
- Central and Eastern Ontario feel a more severe humid continental (very humid and very cold)
- Northernmost parts of Ontario have a subarctic climate
- Precipitation grows from Northwest to Southeast
- All generally varies based on latitude, proximity to water, and terrain

Lecture 2.1 – Social Geography

Questions to think about...

1. Who are we?
2. Where do we live? (trends)
3. What drive pop. growth?
4. What are the impacts of pop. increases and decreases?

Early Ontario

- Natives arrived about 10,000 years ago
- Boom of 60,000 to 117,000 in 1500s
- Different tribes were in different locations (heterogeneous); the closer they were to the Great Lakes the more they dealt with agriculture
- In 1500s Europeans came looking for passage to the Orient → Natives showed them the Great Lakes so they thought that they could → Settled → Fur Trade (1600s) → French and English battle for domination
- In 1787 the US Ordinance (military) developed in the Great Lakes because the US wanted the resources; 1791 saw Upper Canada become defined with 17,000 people
- 1812 was the last battle for the Great Lakes
- Confederation in 1867

Population Growth

- Growth has always been driven by immigration, more than any other province
- Immigrants are attracted to already settled groups, job opportunities, and a generally more prosperous society
- In early 1900s the population lived 50/50 urban and rural, then Ford plant came in 1904 and urbanization began; cheap resources in Canada with market in the US, power of falls harnessed for hydro electricity
- One million immigrants came between 1911 and 1913, most to Ontario
- Currently Ontario is 38.8% of Canada's population and held half of the growth since 2001 = centralization = power
- More visible minorities (50%+) because of immigration = diversification of mother tongue
- Immigrants tend to go to larger cities = concentration of growth, will continue
- Those who fall under "dependent" classification is on the rise = change in demand of products and services, and therefore jobs
- 92% of population lives in Southern Ontario, GTA has biggest growth
- Poor health care and high birth rates = reserves in North

Greater Golden Horseshoe

- Home to 2/3 of Ontario, 1/4 and almost 1/3 of Canada (POWER)
- Population grew by 600,000 from 2001 to 2006
- Growth rate of 8.4% > Ontario at 6.6%
- Brampton tops charts
- Fairly equal gender ratio

Lecture 2.2 – Land Use and Urban Sprawl

Sprawl: Spreading out of a city and its suburbs over more and more rural land; urbanization

- High traffic
- Scattered businesses
- Inadequate public transit
- Zoning

Sprawl in Ontario

- At current rate an additional 260,000 acres will be urbanized by 2031 (twice the size of Toronto), 92% of which will be Ontario's best farmland
- Golden Horseshoe (GH) grows by over 115,000 per year
- In 15 years GH will be the third largest in North America
- Low density = High cost, and growth doesn't pay for growth; if we paid more in taxes it would, but instead we urbanize more in hopes of making profit

Household Cost of Sprawl

- Cheap land is further from the city core
- Increased property taxes for maintenance of infrastructure
- Increased personal transit costs because all trips now require a car
- More time driving = air pollution (\$1 billion) = 16,000 premature deaths
- Agricultural land sold for agriculture is now more valuable (because rare) than sold for urban development

Negative Impacts of Sprawl

- Permafrost thaw
- Accelerated coastal erosion
- Increased severity of storms and droughts
- Increased need for cheap energy
- Clearing forests increases runoff = polluted water
- Destroying species' habitats
- Socially, lack of connectivity and engagement
- Those who cannot drive are left behind

Principles of Smart Growth

- Preserve green space and farmland
- Integrated land use and transportation planning
- Make full use of existing infrastructure
- Mix land uses
- Variety of transportation choices
- Compact building design
- Range of housing opportunities
- Walking and biking trails
- Communities with a strong sense of place
- Brown land usage (redeveloping developed land)

Lecture 3 – Economic Geography

Levels of Economic Activity

1. Primary: Extraction of raw materials, drove Canada from get-go
2. Secondary: Conversion of raw materials/adding value to
3. Tertiary: Services
4. Quaternary: Collection/processing/distributing information

Agriculture

- Reason for growth from immigration
- Ability to produce all WE needed, so used waterways to export
- Ontario leads Canada in \$ value of farm products, holding ¼ of all farms = 9 millions acres
- Risk of economic disaster = bugs eating, weather, legalities
- Subsidized by government (land rich, money poor)
- Environmental change threatens
- Only 5% of Canada is farmland, but from that we produced \$10.3 billion in 2005
- Dairy products earn most, followed by fruit/vegetables/potatoes
- Land clearing effects runoff (Walkerton)

Commercial Fisheries

- Began around 1820
- Expanded 20% per year
- Best was in 1889 and 1899, over by 1950s
- Provinces set annual limits and licenses
- Around 80% of value is in Lake Erie, therefore no fishing is allowed on the Southern (American) side
- Don't really do this anymore

Forestry

- 1830 commercial logging began
- Paper making slowly began, now we are world leaders
- Pollution from production and loss of resources is a problem
- 80% of Ontario is forested = 85 billion trees
- Most towns have at least one forest-related industry
- 80% of forests are owned by the province, 9% is parks
- Volatile industry (but not as bad as people think)
- \$14 billion in 2008, mostly in pulp and paper
- Around 200,000 direct and indirect jobs
- 40 of 260 forestry communities say they are highly dependent of the industry

Mining

- In Canadian Shield, refined in Sudbury and Port Colborne
- Multi billion dollar industry
- In decline, boom and bust in North
- Environmental concerns
- Ontario leads Canada in value of non-fuel mineral production
- Many towns were established around ores, but with advancements in technology we are finding that we don't need certain minerals, so those towns suffer
- A lot of these resources are trapped under agricultural land = clash of resources

Energy

- Hydro = 20.4%, Natural Gas = 13.6%, Nuclear = 55%
- Hydro led economic boom, but now nuclear is choice because provinces want to be energy-independent and not all can sustain themselves on hydro
- Natural gas in 93% from Western countries

Manufacturing

- Ontario makes 52% of all manufactured goods in Canada
- Competitive advantage of location and proximity to US
- Is what drove Canada post WW2, including Windsor Ford plant in 1904
- Created connections with States, most goods go there
- Moving towards hi-tech and is declining in man-powered jobs
- In-class movie:
 - o Reversal of historical trends; less offshore manufacturing because labour prices are increasing and with shipping it's just not worth it
 - o We are now "insourcing" and people need to know how important that is for our economy
 - o Experts think we need to reestablish AND grow our manufacturing industry using the government, educators, and companies alike
- Successful because cheap and reliable energy, educated and trained workforce, market access, transportation, and health care making it cheaper
- What is concerning is wage competitiveness, future workforce (aging), Canadian vs. US dollar, thickening border, and lack of government response
- We transport goods via the Erie/Lachine/Welland canals
- Top industries are manufacturing and finance
- Most people (77%) are employed in the tertiary field

Trends

- Ontario is most productive province
 - o \$559 billion, or 39% of GDP
- Primary and Secondary industries are giving way to Tertiary and Quaternary sectors
- Increased and decreased similar to global economy = connected
- Very tied to US dollar
- Experiencing more growth and more stability

Lecture 4.1 – Heartland

Description of a Heartland ~ Toronto

- Small land area
- High concentration of people
- Highly urbanized
- Corporate control (headquarters and decision makers)
- No space for Primary industries, so the rest dominate
- Industrial core
- Cities with diverse economies and good physical qualities
- Access to markets
- Well integrated system of cities (seamless)
- Capacity for innovation and change (because of resources, part of control)
- Competitive Geographic Advantage: Flat, easily cleared, accessible by water, cheap resources, close to US, concentration of resources

Description of a Hinterland ~ Sudbury

- Large land area
- Low concentration of population, scattered, rural
- Low income, more unemployment
- Primary industries dominate, fewer jobs, sensitive to change
- Specialized economies (like towns built around ores)
- Limited political power/capacity for change
- Dependency on Heartland
- Less innovation because of less resources

Heartland Process – How to Become a Heartland

- Growth that is self-sustained
- Economies of scale and conglomeration (businesses close together, ie. bank = essential)
- Growth attracts more growth
- Demand for staple commodities
- Purchase resources for Hinterland
- When all geographic competitive advantages are present it is hard to stop
- Needs lots of people, we have this because we have plentiful resources and are attractive because of already settled groups (manpower)
- Must do more than sustain; export
- Exchanges provide Hinterland with capital, labour, technology, entrepreneurship, etc.
- Attract people with high wages, technology, and resources to Hinterlands to ensure Primary industries are continued and supporting Heartland
- Government transfers to Hinterlands because they can't access all services and we say all Canadians should have the same access

Ontario as a Heartland

- Along Windsor-Quebec axis, South-Central Ontario and GH
- GH includes agricultural, commercial, and industrial belt
- From 1945-1970
 - o Prospered, diverse economy and power
 - o Liked strong Federal government because we got what we wanted

- More people = more votes = more voting power (1/3) so had to be kept happy
- Preserved central role by blocking attempts by other provinces to gather power
- In favour of NAFTA
- Since 1970
 - Rifts with the rest of Canada
 - People in Ontario need to think beyond our borders
 - “Heartland” is not a strong enough term
 - More of a continental orientation instead of national
 - Ontario’s trade as a percentage of GDP > with all other provinces
 - Extremely tied to US
 - Becoming a Nation State and trying to leave Canada?
- Our trade routes connect ALL the way to the Southern US border
- Control 1/3 of Federal government and growing, people argue this is not fair representation by population

Lecture 4.2 – Region State

Economic Basis

- N-S has to “pull against gravity” or US to keep E-W
- E-W economy is a political decision, is not natural
 - o Inner/central Canada is the Heartland
 - o Outer Canada is the resource-based Hinterland
 - o Makes more sense for Ontario to trade with New York and BC to trade with Cali
- People argue that being too attached to the US is risky and that it will make the E-W less resilient, but creating a tight border doesn't make sense either
- US rebuilding after recession froze Ontario out; they're selfish and much bigger and more powerful than us
- Government gives out sums of money to provinces to create fiscal equality; some can't get same access to services/be as self-sufficient/have lower fiscal capacity so the Federal government tops them up with tax money (Ontario gets least percentage, have and have-not)

What Makes a Region

- All one geographic area
- Shared economy/politics/culture/regional identity
- Whole area has some regional discontent or problem
 - o Need identity or problem to be seen
 - o Problem → Recognized by region → Shared with others → Complain about it
- Regionalism is complaining that you are lesser
 - o Who are they feeling it against?
 - o Who are they made at? Likely the core

Ontario as a Region-State

- A Region-State is a natural economic zone
- Ontario has become one because of globalization and the move towards and information (vs. manufacturing) economy
- Fiscal Decentralization (giving individual provinces more money and independence) has allowed Ontario to grow ties with the States

Characteristics of a Region-State

- Kind of like own country within a country or province
- Internationally oriented economy
- Government and policy implemented to develop said economy (Canada = NAFTA)
- Appropriate size to be a natural business area (Ontario = just GH, not the whole thing)

** Ontario must maintain E-W social, political, and economic unions despite the N-S trend and despite the \$86/person gap in Federal funding