

Recap:

Inner Suburbs: they are part of the City of Toronto, they were developed after WWII

Up until WWII, most of the population in Toronto was concentrated in the inner city (red areas on the map) it's not necessarily downtown but still part of the city.

There were only two areas:

1. natural areas
2. farm land cultivated for food

Why did settlements occur in suburbs after WWII?

Decisive factor: immigrants

1945 to 1960s: 3 million immigrants came to Canada, 75% came into the City of Toronto.

It put pressure into expanding. This expansion that happened didn't really match with the idea provincial gov't had after the war.

Sewell

1950: Department of planning prepared a report that was suppose to set the stage for future expansions for surrounding areas

Don Valley Conservation Report 1950: remains central planning document in Ontario until early 2000s when McGuinty replaced it.

Over 50 years

What's in it: very little would have changed in land uses in Toronto in year following WWII

Goals:

1. Let's preserve natural areas surrounding the City of Toronto for future generations
2. Making sure that the water system was clean, sewer system must be efficient and not contaminate
3. Farming land should be preserved

Blue water line crosses from GTA to Vaughan

Goals were all very logical, maintaining the environment as much as possible. Despite good intentions, the report had no implementation plans, nothing that forces the actors in the City to respect this plan. The plan is useless without a strategy. All the ideas they had were great, but there was no measure to implement it.

All the areas that were suppose to remain natural are now being built on, the water system isn't really clean, farming areas were removed for settlement purposes

Who was at fault?

When you have a bunch of officials and bureaucrats, you would expect that they have knowledge about the current situation. None of these people even noticed that immigrants were coming and putting pressure on the system, it was obvious to the common people.

The report was detached from reality. It was only circulated in department of planning and development. For example, transportation department during the same years was cooperating with the gov't to create a highway infrastructure in the area where it was suppose to remain natural. If they knew that expansion was happening, why was it ignored?

You would expect the departments in the same gov't to have the same information.

Don Valley was to become natural, today, it is a transportation corridor. No communication between different departments.

Suburban Growth

1953: Beginning of sprawl

Uncontrolled expansion in suburban areas, up to mid 60s. North York, Scarborough, Etobicoke.

Someone didn't foresee the expansion occurring. The issue is now even greater.

Sprawl: Is it Sustainable?

Toronto Star article: made reference to a book in 2012, "Preverse Cities"

Is it cheaper to buy houses in the Suburbs rather than Downtown Toronto.

Because of these prices, people are led to think that building downtown is more expensive than building in the suburbs. But it's wrong. When we are talking about building, we have to make sure that the residence is connected to infrastructure networks such as sewage and power systems. You need these infrastructures. When you build downtown, you don't have to pay for these infrastructures because it's already there. Only have to spend on building the house alone. Farther you build from Downtown, you have to build these infrastructures from scratch. When they talk about suburbs, people talk about green fields. You have to provide the infrastructures for suburban residents, which actually cost more than building downtown. But why are houses cheaper in the suburbs? The municipality finances it. None of the costs are passed to the builder then to the owner.

Greenbelt Ontario Link

In 1950s, the new document was something good, focused on protecting the green belt, forested area surrounding the GTA. It was important to prevent further sprawling. We wanted to preserve it as natural as possible.

The page gives you a general idea about how bad the situation it is in Ontario. For instance, the Golden Horseshoe is growing at more than 115,000 people per year.

The more people using cars, the more they end up polluting the environment, leading to higher medical costs.

Mayor Crombie article

In 2003, when the liberal of McGuinty came into power, greenbelt panel report Current liberal gov't set up a panel to review the greenbelt report. They have named Crombie as the head of the department.

Make sure that the suburbs aren't expanding to take over the farmland area. The Ontario Gov't isn't insensitive to reality. They are recognizing that sprawl is horrible and bad news. Crombie is a great representation, with huge credibility.

Toronto article: Toronto on the hook ...

Rail expansions are controlled by Metrolinx. It is tasked for transportation around GTA. They have envisioned a plan to expand the railway system, which is good, because it hasn't been updated for awhile.

The expansion conducted by Metrolinx right now is benefiting the City of Toronto, so we expect for the City to pay. The argument is that they are not asking for something new, the province should shoulder most of the cost. Then the rest would be from the City. Mayor Tory was not happy due to budget issues right now. But if you were someone without the knowledge of Toronto, why shouldn't Toronto pay more than 15% for the expansion as it is benefiting the city.

The article doesn't point out that the situation today has changed since 1995 when Mike Harris was elected. When he was elected, he decided to cut funding to municipality. He downloaded a bunch of services to the municipality.

When the officer for Metrolinx asked for funding, it has always been a practice. But the situation is different. The City now has barely any money. They don't receive much money from the province, they've been given so much more responsibility. That's why Tory is not happy. Toronto will benefit but the City should have received much more money from the province in the past years.