

Toronto's Inner Suburbs

Consists of: Scarborough, North York, Etobicoke

Use to be separate municipality

1998 Mike Harris – Amalgamation of Toronto

Now part of entire city

End of WWII - Inner suburbs scarcely populated, only in inner city

After WWII - A large # of immigrants arrived, meaning the City had to keep expanding to accommodate them

1950 Document - said nothing was going to change, land was going to be preserved for farming and natural purposes (parks, etc)

In fact its different now, as the area is heavily populated

Today's focus: inner suburbs

Outer suburbs: 1980 forward

Consists of: Peel, Halton, York, Durham Region

Distinguished by: who makes decisions

Decisions about inner suburbs are taken by City Hall

Greater Toronto Area: assembly of different municipalities together

The 3 Cities of Toronto: A Phenomenon of Income Polarization

City #1: seen incomes rise by 20%

Everyone wants to increase his or her household income

Good news

Where: Inner City

City #2: remained essentially static

City #3: seen incomes drop by 20%

Where: inner suburbs

Results show that from 1970s up to 2000s, there has been significant changes

Rich people getting richer, poor people getting poorer

Gradual diminishing middle class

Income Polarization: Does it reflect in voting patterns?

Seems to be a correspondence

Inner city and inner suburbs split

Causes of Inner Suburbs' Decline

Why are they seeing an average decrease in income?

- Since 1970s, preference for older downtown, rather than suburban areas
- After WWII, immigrants arrived, and many mfg was downtown. The wealthy didn't want to be close to these factories. Therefore, they moved to the suburban areas. By 1970s, people found that suburbs were boring

- Jane Jacobs said that mono use is boring, you need to have mixed uses and historical buildings, it gives the city its texture, making it unique and not compatible.
- Preference for older downtowns
- A group of people decided to move back into the inner city. Families who didn't, escaped even further, and went into outer suburbs. In these suburbs, there was more space (potential for bigger homes)
- If all wealthy move to inner city or outer suburbs, there are few wealthy people left!

Suburban sprawl

Gov't emphasis on the need to attract the creative class and build the creative city

The more people owned property, the Municipal Gov't get more.

Most significant reason for decline of suburbs: Municipal Gov't wants to attract the creative class to bring in money.

Since the 90s, Provincial Gov't gave less financial support to City, they had to find alternatives, which is the creative class, they bring in money for the city.

They want a place with lots of entertainment - most of them are found in the inner city as supposed to the suburbs. Prefer the dynamics that comes with the city.

The creative class will come to the downtown, if any local politician needs to decide what to spend on.

Area that we consider the inner suburbs gets underfunded, not enough money to improve roads, buildings, etc.

Most of the money that City Hall has available goes to improve the downtown

Area of the inner suburbs is much broader than the downtown area

Give them equal service like residents they received it in Toronto