CanU Caucuses Presentations and Discussions on their work on Resiliency, Research and Urbanizing the Suburbs

Presenters:

Research

David Gordon — Professor, School of Urban and Regional Planning, Queen's University

Urbanizing Suburbia

Mary-Lou Tanner

Urban Resiliency

Corey Bialek — Planner, LEED Green Associate, urbanequation

Trevor Imhoff — Senior Project Manager, City of Brampton

Moderator:

Jana Kelemen — Urban Designer, Town of Oakville

9:30 – 10:00

COUNCIL FOR / CONSEIL
CANADIAN URBANISM /
CANADIEN D'URBANISME

URBANIZING SUBURBIA

CanU Urbanizing Suburbia Caucus

- Caucus history, purpose, goals and objectives
- Organization and workplan
- Activities: key topics, research, local trends
- Key issues, nation-wide trends
- National and international relevant projects

Alex Taranu, *FCIP, FRAIC, OAA, RPP, co-chair*

CanU Summit, Hamilton, Nov. 2019

CanU

Overview/ Report

URBANIZING SUBURBIA

... in the CITY / METROPOLIS / REGIONAL CITY: Key Issues

Liveable

Complete, healthy communities

Sustainable, resilient

INNOVATION, NEW ECONOMY

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

TOD, INFILL AND INTENSIFICATION

DESIGN WITH NATURE, WATER

SOCIAL BALANCE, DIVERSITY

PUBLIC REALM, PUBLIC SPACE

NATIONAL AND LOCAL TRENDS

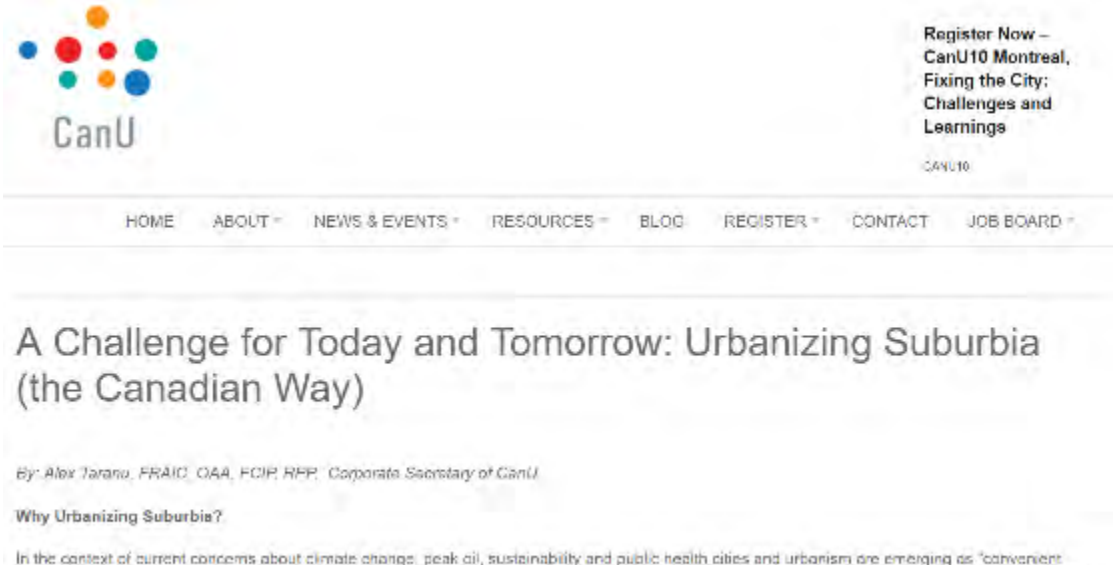
URBANIZING SUBURBIA

History of the CanU's work on Suburban Issues and the Emergence of the Caucus

- Urbanizing Suburbia was an important issue for CanU from the outset (CIP presentation, Quebec City, 2007)
- Charter (unveiled 2009, signed 2013) has provisions
- First draft paper presented by prof. David Gordon at CanU2 in Montreal, 2010
- Numerous presentations including part of the "Canadian Urbanism from Coast to Coast" presentations, at regional (OAA, OPPI), national (CIP, RAIC), and international conferences (CNU, Liveable Cities, Walk21, World Design Summit), urban design charrettes
- The 2014 CanU6 Summit was held in the GTA (North York, Markham, Mississauga, Brampton) and focused on suburban issues
- Work identified specific Canadian aspects, demonstration projects of national and international interest and an increasing number of CanUers interested in suburban issues
- As part of the 2017 retreat discussion of CanU reorganization the idea of issues focused Caucuses has been advanced and later approved by the Board
- Article published on the CanU Web site triggered significant attention and interest from urbanists across the country to join the Caucus, expression of interest launched

Caucus Organization

- Alex Taranu (ON- Brampton), Renee de St. Croix (BC - Burnaby) – co-chairs
- Mary-Lou Tanner (ON - Burlington), Leo deSorcy (ON - Toronto), Markus Moos (ON - Waterloo), Dan Leeming (ON - Toronto), Suzy Peate (QC – Montreal), David Fleischer (ON - GTA), Lothar Wiwjorra (AB – Calgary) Andrew McNeill (BC - Coquitlam), Ronji Borooah (ON - Markham), Leslie Pavan (ON - Mississauga), Olivier Bergeron/Catherine Boisclair (QC – Montreal/Quebec) + John Fleming (ON- London).
- National representation achived, not without efforts, number limitation to make work effective.
- Liaison and coordination with the Resilience and Research Caucuses
- Discussion about larger contact group



URBANIZING SUBURBIA

Caucus Organization, Agenda, Work Plan

2018

1. CanU UrbSuburb Caucus Summary (April 2018)
(document created for the CanU Board based on the original Terms of Reference approved in 2017 and summarizing the Caucus intent, organization, activities

2. CanU UrbSuburb Caucus: Vision, Goals, Issues (Feb/March 2018)
(document prepared by Leo de Sorcy starting from the draft Terms of Reference and the List of Issues summarizing the Vision, Goals, Key issues of the group)

3. Discussion Document (March 2018 – on-going)
(document collecting on line discussion about the object of study, main issues, history, etc)

4. **CanU UrbSuburb Caucus – Resources** (April 2018)
(document collecting the main references and resources for the group – books/publications, articles, policies, web sites, etc)

5. **CanU UrbSuburb Caucus – Exemplars and Case Studies** (April 2018)
(document collecting the most relevant projects, developments – contemporary and historic)

6. **CanU UrbSuburb Caucus – Terms of Reference (draft)** (Feb. 2018)
(document collecting the initial terms of reference and other materials for the group including Case Studies, Resources)

2019 Work

1. Key Topics to be discussed (Feb 2019)
- Research, academic studies, publications (MM)
- Policies in support of urbanization of the suburbs (Renee)
- Sustainable mobility as driver of suburban urbanization (Alex)
- Intensification of existing suburban commercial areas (Lesley)
- Intensification of existing suburban residential areas (Lothar)
- Public infrastructure investment for urbanization (Alex)
- Social issues (equity, diversity, affordability) in the Suburbs
- New Urban Centres (Alex)
- Resilience, sustainability, public health in the suburbs (Dan)
- Planning and design tools for urbanization
- The (urban) design agenda / design excellence for UrbSuburb

2. Urbanizing Suburbia in Calgary (Lothar): Policies, key initiatives, projects, resources

3. CanU UrbSuburb Caucus expanded
Suzy Peate (Montreal) and Catherine Boisclair (Quebec City) added

4. Intensification of existing neighbourhoods:
Yellow Belt/Missing middle – engagement, NIMBY/Yimby (JK on CanU blog)

5. CanU UrbSuburb Caucus – Exemplars and Case Studies
Scandinavian New Towns revisited (Tapiola (FIN), Vallingby (Swe)

6. Retrofitting Suburban Infrastructure: Malls/Suburban New Towns, water infrastructure (AT)

7. CanU UrbSuburb Caucus at CanU11 Summit

Caucus Procedings, Work Plan, Deliverables

Council for Canadian Urbanism/ Conseil d'urbanisme canadien

CanUrbSuburb Caucus

(Urbanizing the Suburban Realm Caucus)

Meeting #09/2019 – Friday, Sep. 20th, 12noon – 1:00PM, teleconference

AGENDA and MEETING NOTES

Attendees:

Renee de St. Croix (RdSC), Alex Taranu (AT), Dan Leeming (DL), David Fleischer (DF), Jana Kelemen (JK)

Regrets:

Mary-Lou Tanner (MLT), Lesley Pavan (LP), Lothar Wiwjorra (LW), Ronji Borooah (RB), Leo deSorcy (LdS), Markus Moos (MM), Andrew McNeill (AM), John Fleming (JF), Suzy Peate (SP), Olivier Bergeron (OB), Catherine Boisclair (CB)

1. Welcome, last meeting notes, agenda *(chair)*

2. Topic of the day:
CanU UrbSuburb Caucus at CanU11:
JK outlines Summit, events; CanUrb Suburb members participation discussed (MLT, DL, JK, JF, AMT will attend; SP, others to confirm; LW, OB, CB will not attend
Caucus role, opportunities, participation:
- "Salon" (Thursday, Nov 7th, 5:30-6:30, local pub together with the other caucuses) - opportunity of in person meeting, discussion of UrbSuburb issues, roundtable, mini presentations w key projects, networking (participants, location, format, agenda); notice to other participants interested in the topic (contact group)
- Caucuses and Committees Overview (Sat. Nov 9th, 9:30 – 10:00 AM) – 10' overview of work, achievements, work plans – who to lead/present (MLT, DL?), prepare brief presentation in advance, RdSC to circulate last year presentation
- other: very limited opportunities at other sessions (eg Urbanizing the Suburbs in Mid sized cities - DG, Coast to Coast)

3. Current issues:

a. Discussion of current issues impacting Urbanising Suburbia
(future/other topics of the day):

RdSC: Climate Emergency work in the GVRegion, in particular focus on mid sized cities; exchange info w Hamilton through Resilience and Sustainability Caucus (DL)
- Urbanizing the Mall: Leslie/Mississauga Study, projects in BC, AB, Mtl; RdCS to circulate examples from GV Region
"The Mall Re-Envisioned" MUDR Oct 25th (TO, Mississauga, LP?, JK?, AMT to attend
- Intensification of existing neighbourhoods/Yellow Belt/Missing middle – engagement, NIMBY/Yimby (JK/CB); Affordable housing in the Suburbs (AT+)

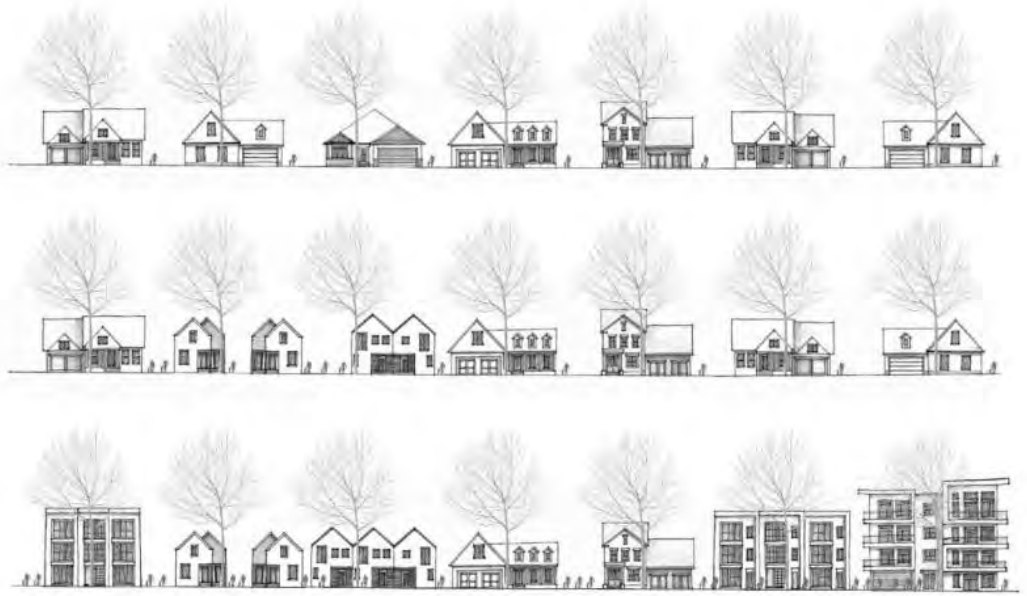
Changing the Conversation – and along with that, the neighborhood character

By: Jana Kelemen

Our cities are struggling with housing affordability. Many political platforms are built around this issue; yet, no significant changes have been made to reconnect the existing housing-related policies with much-needed intensification.

One of the simplest solutions to generate more housing without the eradication of additional greenfield while creating more resiliency within our cities would be urbanization of the existing low-density areas. Gentle incremental intensification of our suburban neighbourhoods, supported by existing infrastructure is the low-hanging fruit of possible solutions to housing affordability problem. Slightly more compact suburbs could feature a wider variety of housing forms and sustainable density. Higher density could provide a reasonable base for effective public transit as well as more amenities within walking distances, creating more energy-efficient communities.

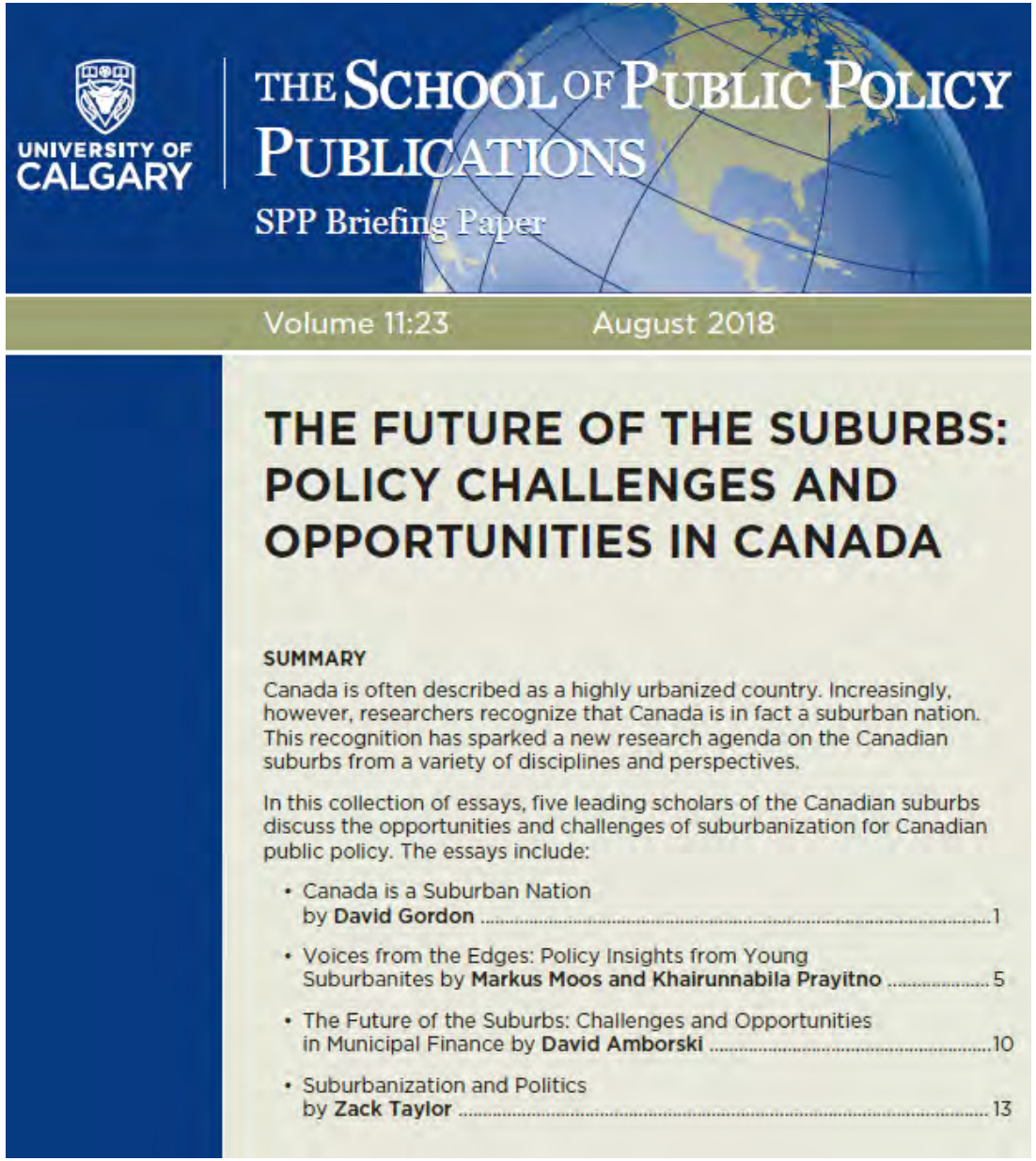
It was once a common practice in medieval cities that developed within fortified walls to grow internally, to adapt to the population increase within its boundaries first. Cities developed organically depending on the needs of their residents. Many of the old cities we love to visit grew this way into beautiful, walkable places with great amenities.



Some valuable components of the neighbourhood such as trees could be maintained, the 'character' probably not. Although the new one will be likely more interesting, livelier, and more sustainable.

URBANIZING SUBURBIA

Resources, References, Research



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY PUBLICATIONS

SPP Briefing Paper

Volume 11:23 August 2018

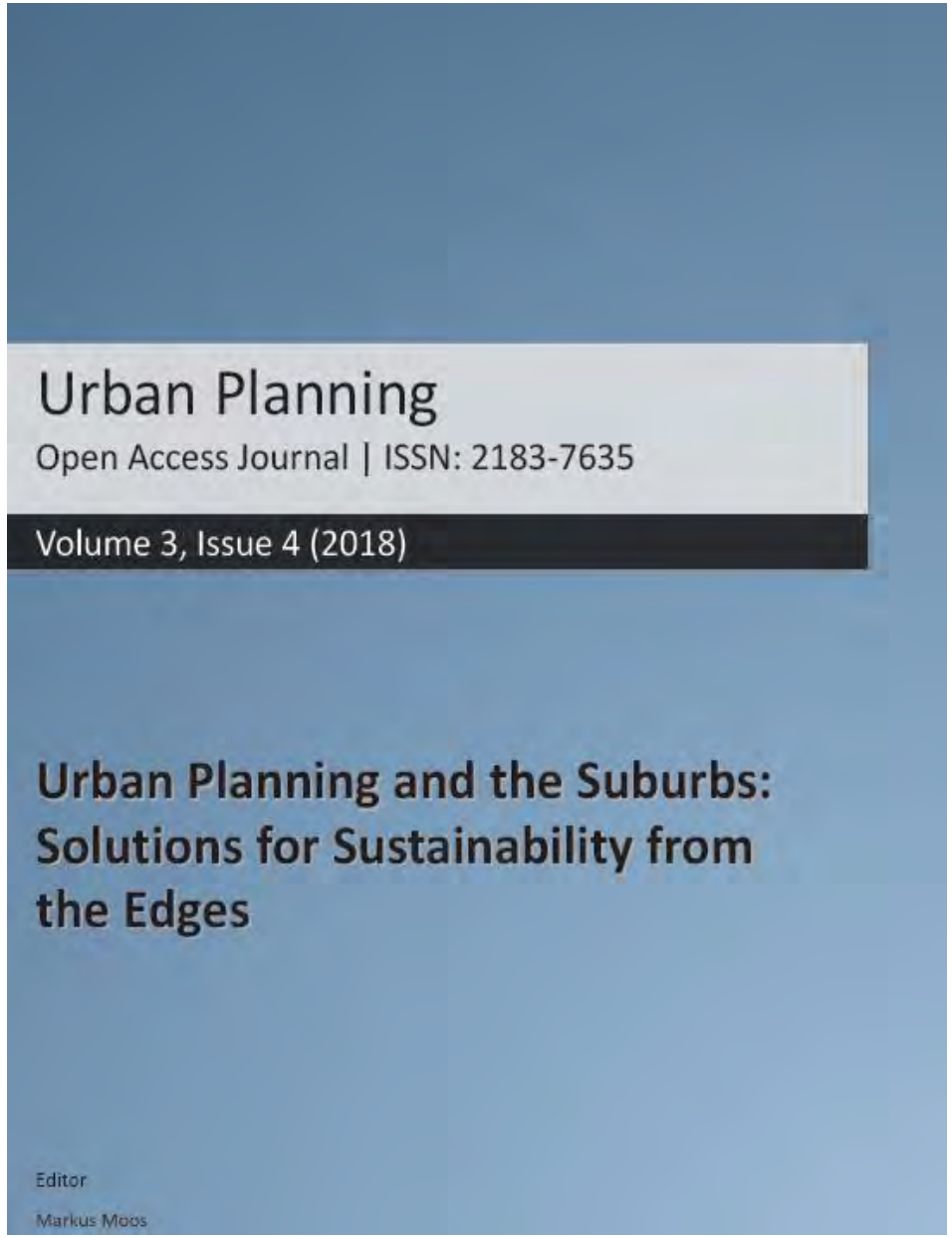
THE FUTURE OF THE SUBURBS: POLICY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN CANADA

SUMMARY

Canada is often described as a highly urbanized country. Increasingly, however, researchers recognize that Canada is in fact a suburban nation. This recognition has sparked a new research agenda on the Canadian suburbs from a variety of disciplines and perspectives.

In this collection of essays, five leading scholars of the Canadian suburbs discuss the opportunities and challenges of suburbanization for Canadian public policy. The essays include:

- Canada is a Suburban Nation by **David Gordon** 1
- Voices from the Edges: Policy Insights from Young Suburbanites by **Markus Moos and Khairunnabila Prayitno** 5
- The Future of the Suburbs: Challenges and Opportunities in Municipal Finance by **David Amborski** 10
- Suburbanization and Politics by **Zack Taylor** 13



Urban Planning

Open Access Journal | ISSN: 2183-7635

Volume 3, Issue 4 (2018)

Urban Planning and the Suburbs: Solutions for Sustainability from the Edges

Editor

Markus Moos

URBANIZING SUBURBIA

International Examples

Headlines from the Changing Suburbs

The latest news on suburban transformation

Roswell Activists: Metro Atlanta's Most Impassioned Preservationists, or the NIMBYs from Hell?

Curbed Atlanta, December 19, 2018
In the historic core of a growing suburban city, that is the question

In Tehran, Design Principles of American Suburbia U Persist

"The very great challenge of the future will be the urbanization of suburbia, th redevelopment of sprawl."
Leon Krier

Urbanizing Housing in the Suburbs

Figure 1: Many interview participants describe townhouse products as the emerging suburban housing market "sweet spot," representing an "in-between" or "missing middle" housing density. (Source: Katherine Perrott's illustration).

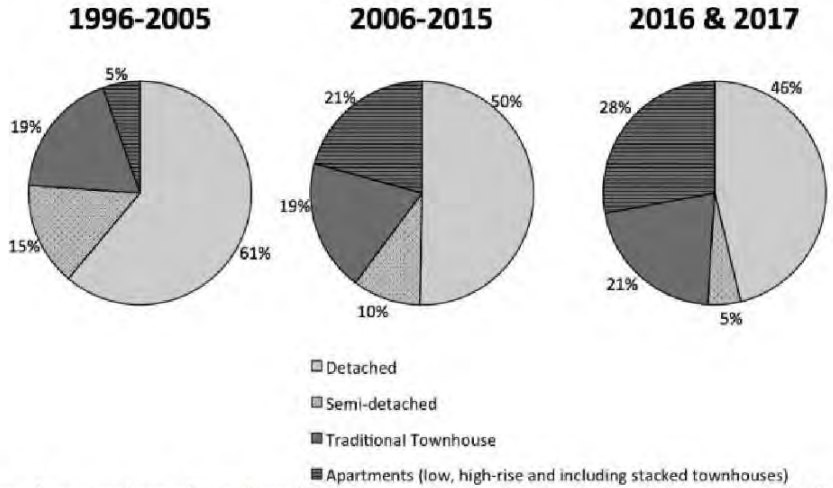


Figure 2: Proportional comparison of new housing unit completions in the GTA suburban municipalities. Does not include City of Toronto (source: calculated by Katherine Perrott from CMHC Housing Market Information Portal, accessed 2016-2018).

Source: "*The image of the suburbs: Planning urbanity in the Toronto Region*"
2018 PhD Dissertation by Katherine Perrott

URBANIZING SUBURBIA

Case Studies, National Historic Examples

THE WINNIPEG TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1909. 7

Transcona adjoins the new Grand Trunk Pacific shops, which, when complete, will be the Largest Railway Shops in Canada.

TRANSCONA

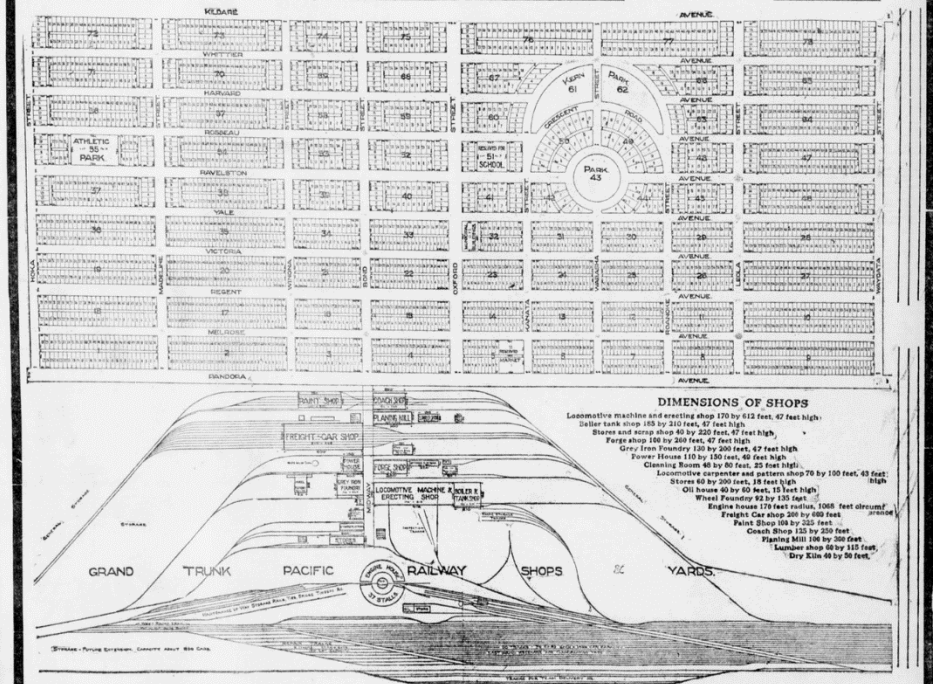
The employment of three thousand men means that Transcona should soon have a population of 15,000

THE NEW RAILWAY CITY OF THE WEST

PRICES $3.00 PER FOOT UP.

A GLANCE AT THE MAP SHOWS THAT TRANSCONA IS THE ONLY SUBDIVISION ON THE MARKET WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION

PRICES $3.00 PER FOOT UP.



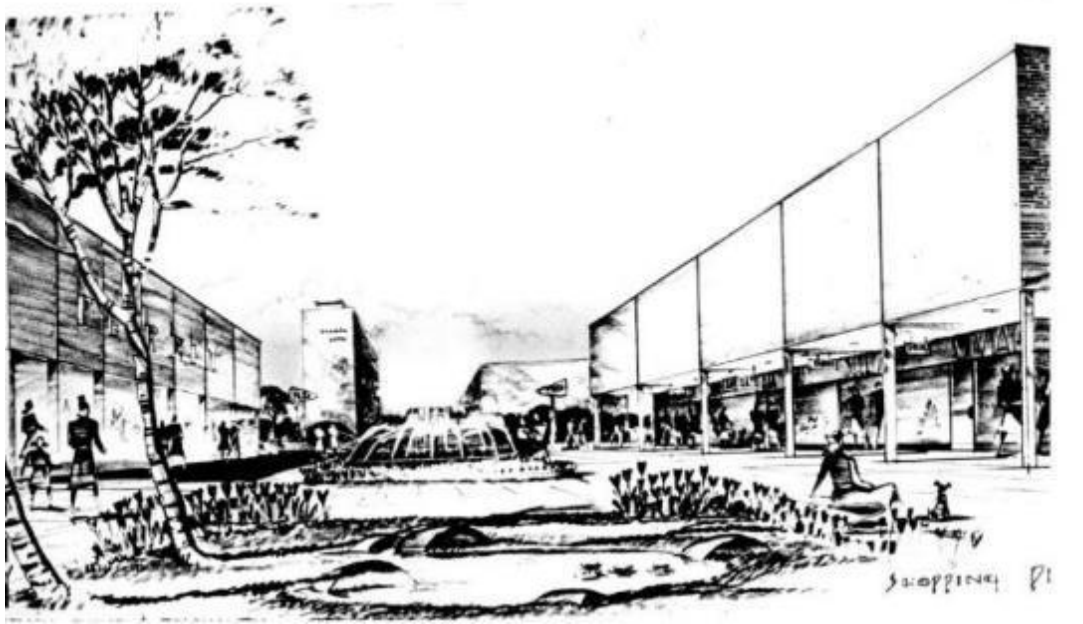
IN PLACING TRANSCONA on the market today, we have kept our promise not to offer the property for sale until actual construction of the shops had commenced. A study of the Townsite published herewith proves to a demonstration that TRANSCONA has a perfect entrance to the Great Works. We have, therefore, the most perfect confidence in offering to the general public, Business and Residential Property in TRANSCONA, which, all agree, is destined to speedily become one of the most prosperous Railway Centres in the entire West. When it is remembered that an army of 3,000 workmen will be employed in the shops, earning monthly from $200,000 to $250,000, it is not a difficult matter to see the effect this will have on TRANSCONA. Is it too much to predict that there will be a more rapid increase in the value of Real Estate in TRANSCONA than any other point in Canada?

TRANSCONA is laid out as a model city, with wide streets and lanes, good sized lots, public parks and playgrounds.

PRICES—Lots will be sold at from $3.00 per foot up, less a discount of 10 per cent., which will prevail for a few days. Terms—One-fifth cash, balance extending over 2 years. Come early and secure choicest locations.

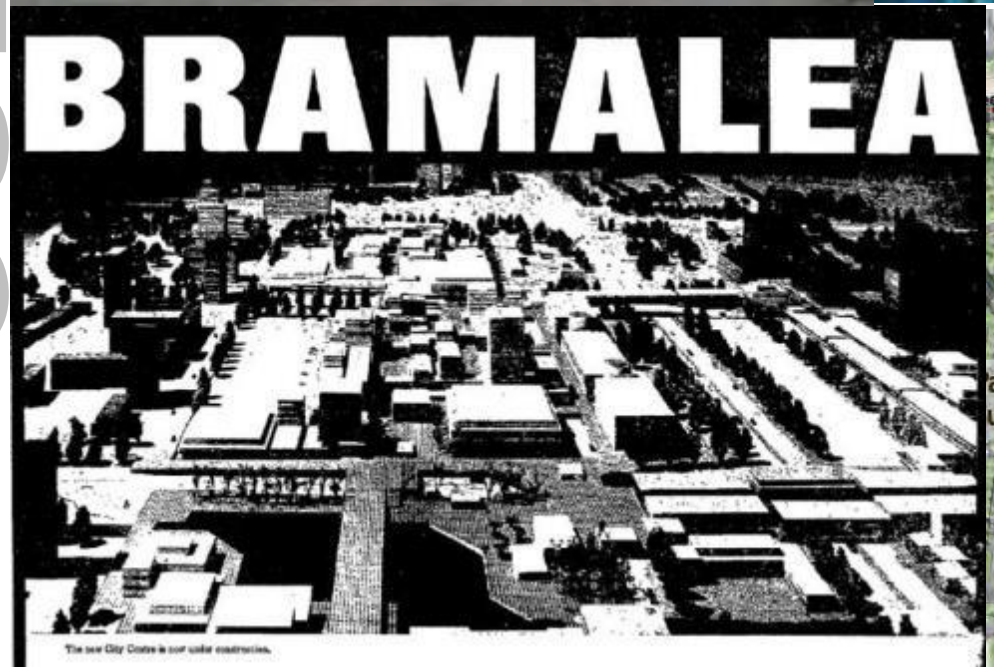
To accommodate those who cannot purchase in the daytime, the office will be open each evening from 7 to 9 o'clock.

W. J. Christie & Co. 2nd Floor Union Bank Bldg. Phone 6780-6781 **Selling Agents**



URBANIZING SUBURBIA

The Brave New Town of Bramalea



URBANIZING SUBURBIA

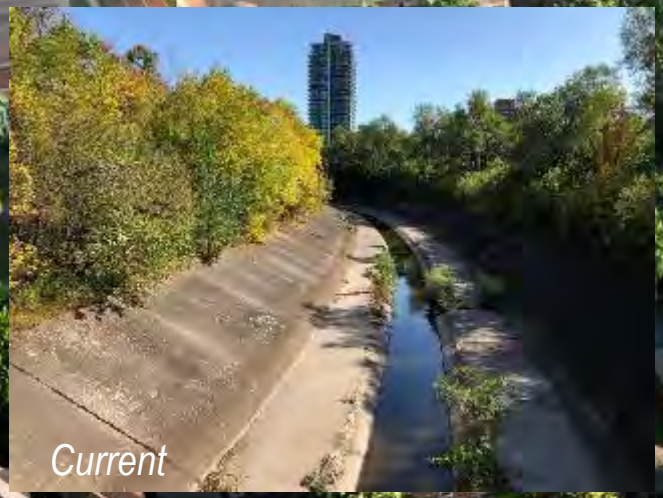
Trends, Case Studies/Examples, Projects

Trends: infill and intensification, new complete greenfield – Calgary, AB

URBANIZING SUBURBIA

Trends, Issues: Retrofitting Infrastructure

Retrofitting suburban infrastructure for resilience, sustainability, revitalization, public realm and character: the Riverwalk program, Brampton, ON



URBANIZING SUBURBIA

International Examples: Vallingby, Sweden

COUNCIL FOR CANADIAN URBANISM

Urban Resilience Caucus
November 9, 2019

CanU

OUR MANDATE

The Urban Resilience Caucus seeks to better understand how resilience can be built into our urban environments to better ensure our ability to adapt and recover from major events.

We have joined together to establish a focused way of understanding, discussing, and applying resilience within our practice of urban design and planning.

MEMBERS

Dan Leeming: The Planning Partnership
Stacey McCulloch: The Planning Partnership
Antonio Gómez-Palacio: DIALOG
Jenny McMinn: Urban Equation
Corey Bialek: Urban Equation
Alex Taranu: City of Brampton
Trevor Imhoff: City of Hamilton
Alissa Mahood: City of Hamilton

WHAT IS RESILIENCE?

"The ability of any urban system to prepare and plan for, absorb and recover from, and successfully adapt to change."

BOTH PAST AND FUTURE WARMING IN CANADA IS, ON AVERAGE, ABOUT DOUBLE THE MAGNITUDE OF GLOBAL WARMING.

RESEARCH FOCUS

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

INSURANCE COMPANY RESPONSE

CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

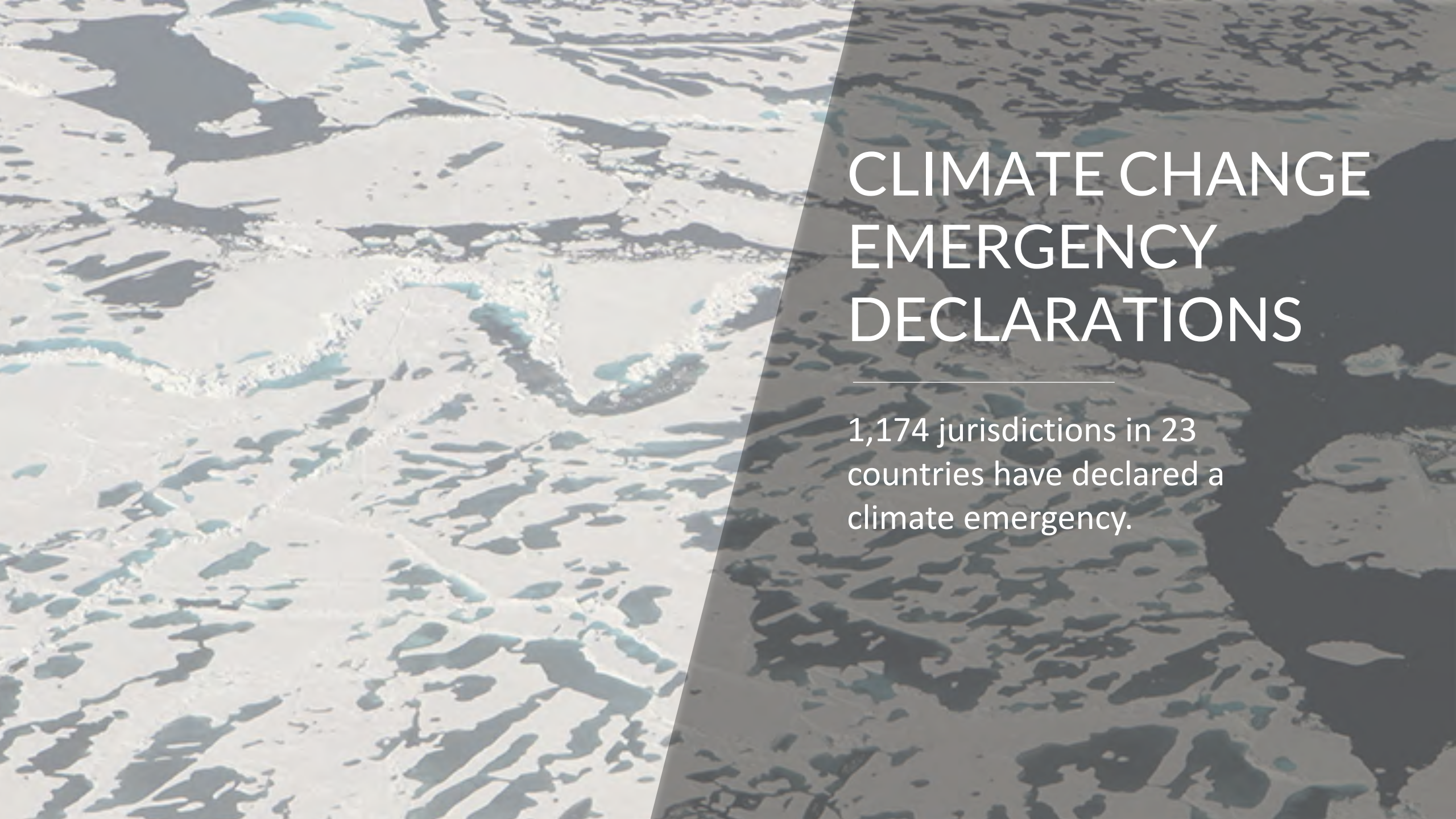
EXTREME WEATHER

Blizzards
Fires
Floods
Tornadoes

INSURANCE INDUSTRY RESPONSE

Flooding is becoming more of an issue, with many conservation authorities redrawing floodlines.

Flood mapping shows that 5% of homes are in risk zones and will be uninsurable.



CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

1,174 jurisdictions in 23 countries have declared a climate emergency.

HAMILTON'S CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

CANU11 Conference

November 9, 2019

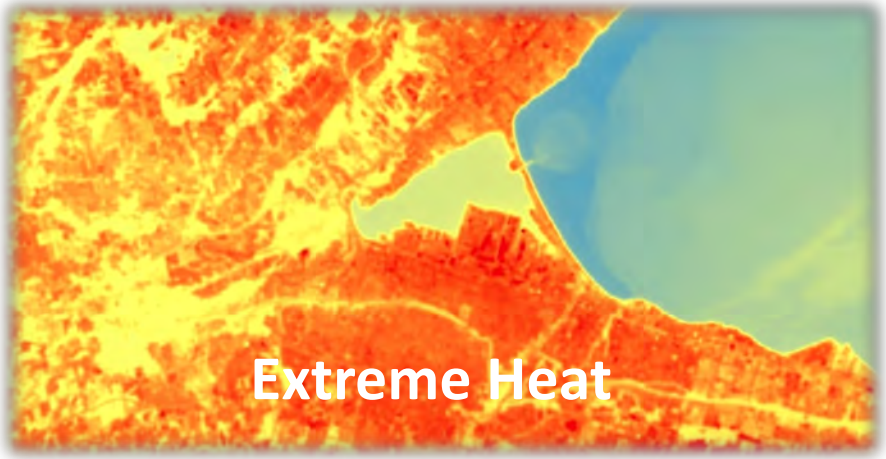
Trevor Imhoff, Senior Project Manager – Air Quality & Climate Change

Healthy and Safe Communities
Healthy Environments

Climate Change in Hamilton

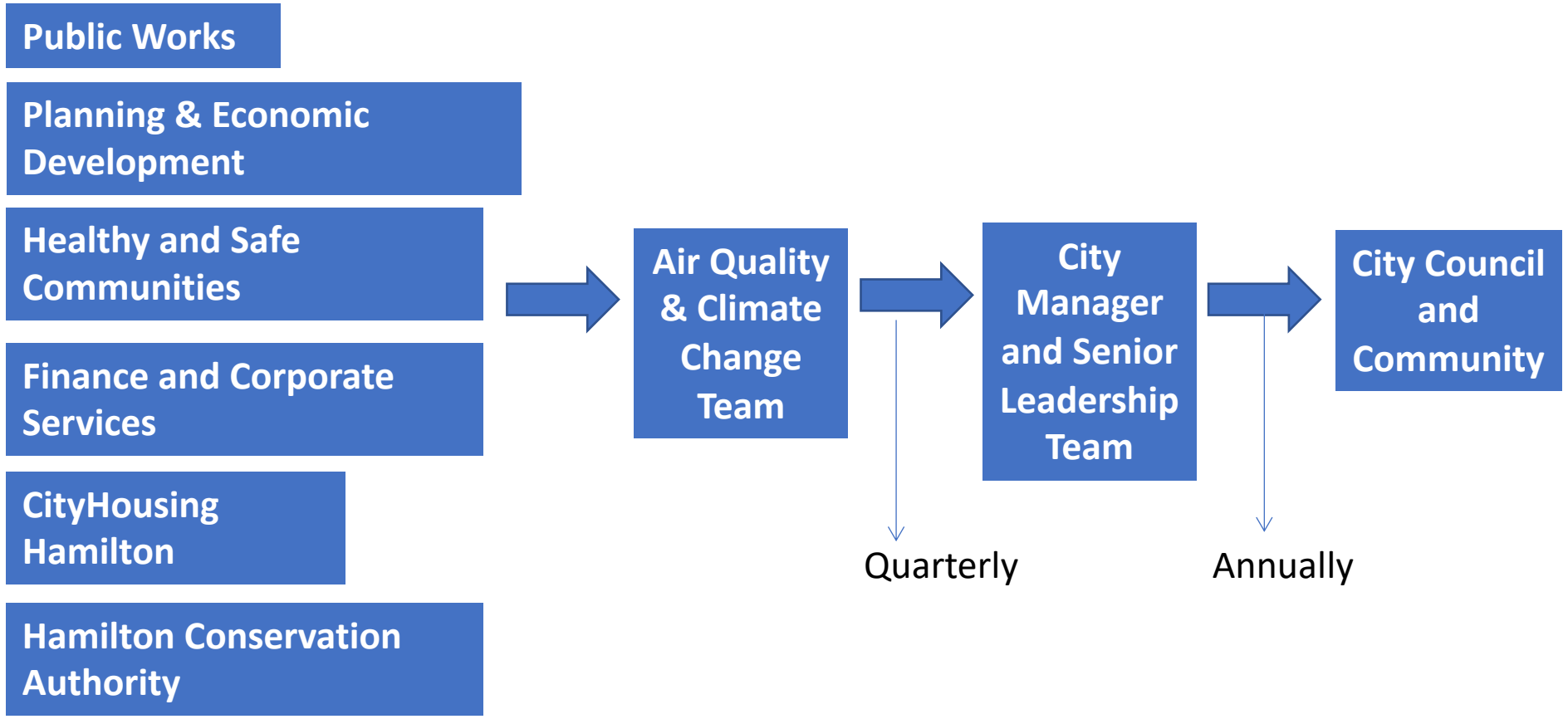
- 3% increase in precipitation since 1970
- Local increases in flooding events, ice storms, wind storms, extreme rain events
- 2016 drought followed by 2017 floods along Lake Ontario

Urban Climate Change Impacts

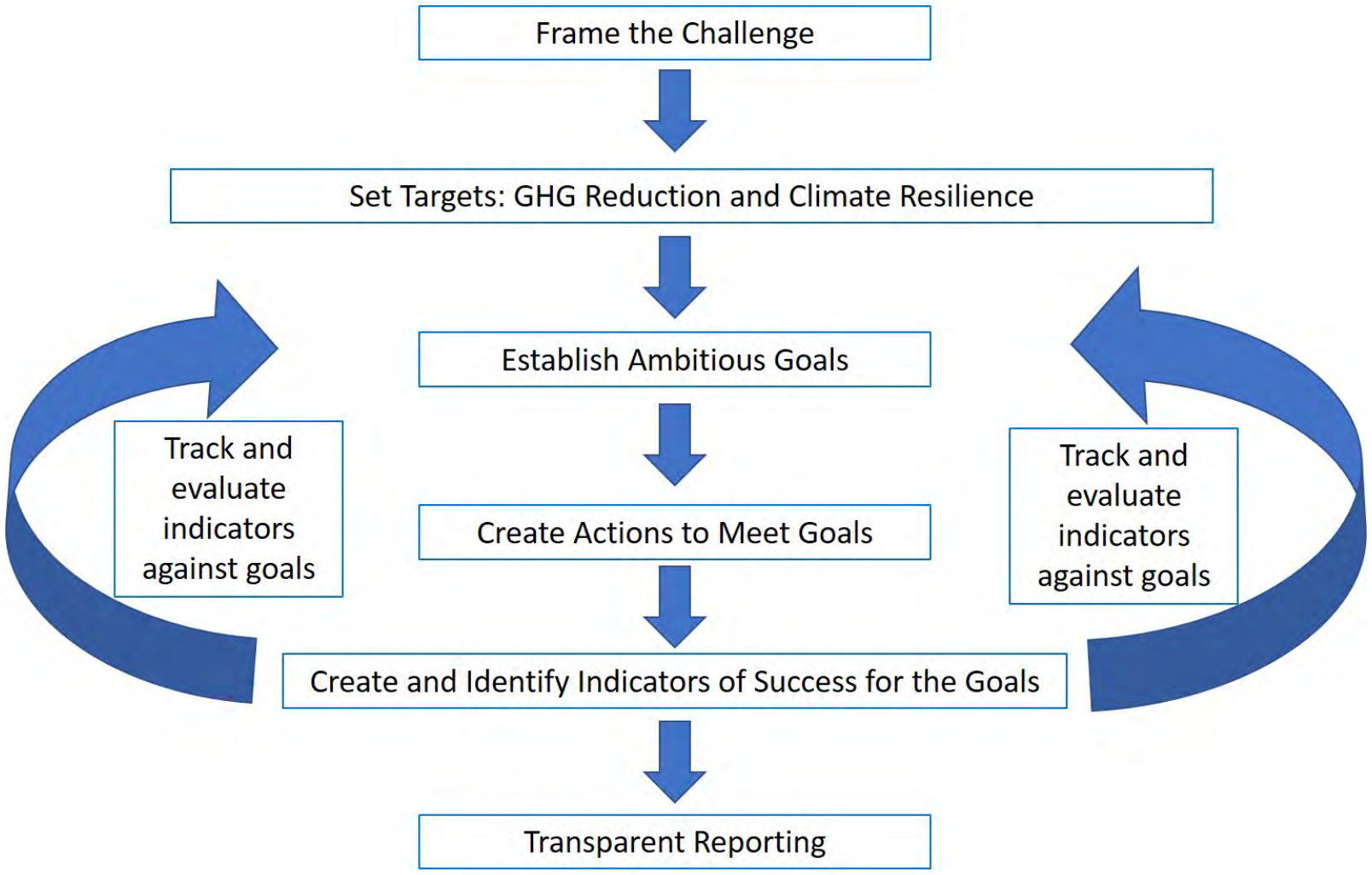


Hamilton's Science of Climate Change Report

Corporate Climate Change Framework



Hamilton's Climate Change Process



Next Steps

- Caucus will continue with monthly discussions around local climate events and ongoing research.
- Our focus will broaden to include an investigation of solutions, bridging from research to implementation.
- We will continue to be a resource for CanU members.
- We will continue to share our research and findings.

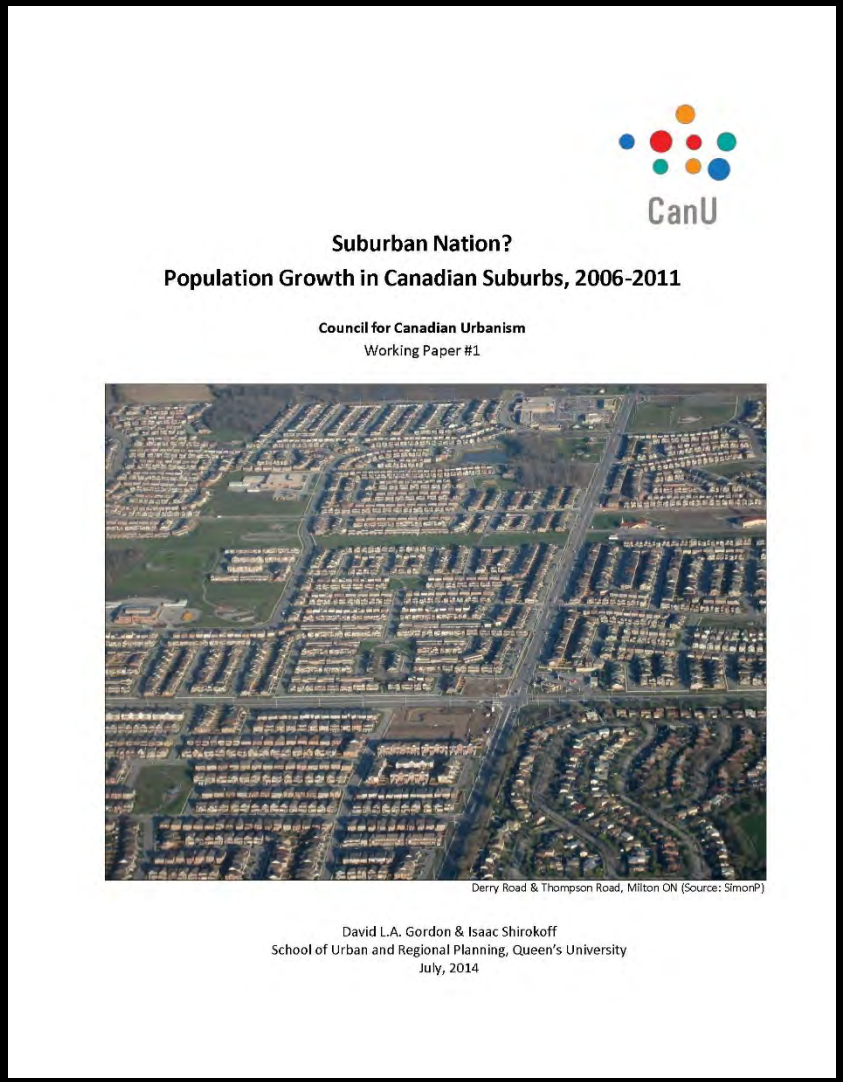
CanU Research Committee

Dr. David Gordon, RPP FCIP P. Eng. AICP

Professor, Queen's School of Urban & Regional Planning

Council for Canadian Urbanism Research Chair

Suburban Nation? Population Growth in Canadian Suburbs, 2006-2011



CanU

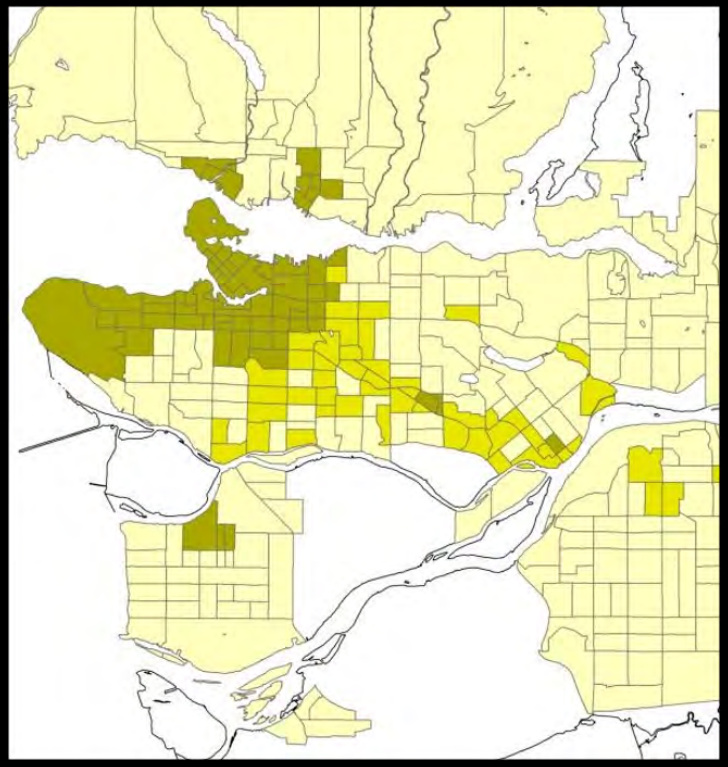
Suburban Nation?
Population Growth in Canadian Suburbs, 2006-2011

Council for Canadian Urbanism
Working Paper #1

Derry Road & Thompson Road, Milton ON (Source: SimonP)

David L.A. Gordon & Isaac Shirokoff
School of Urban and Regional Planning, Queen's University
July, 2014

GIS to Google Earth

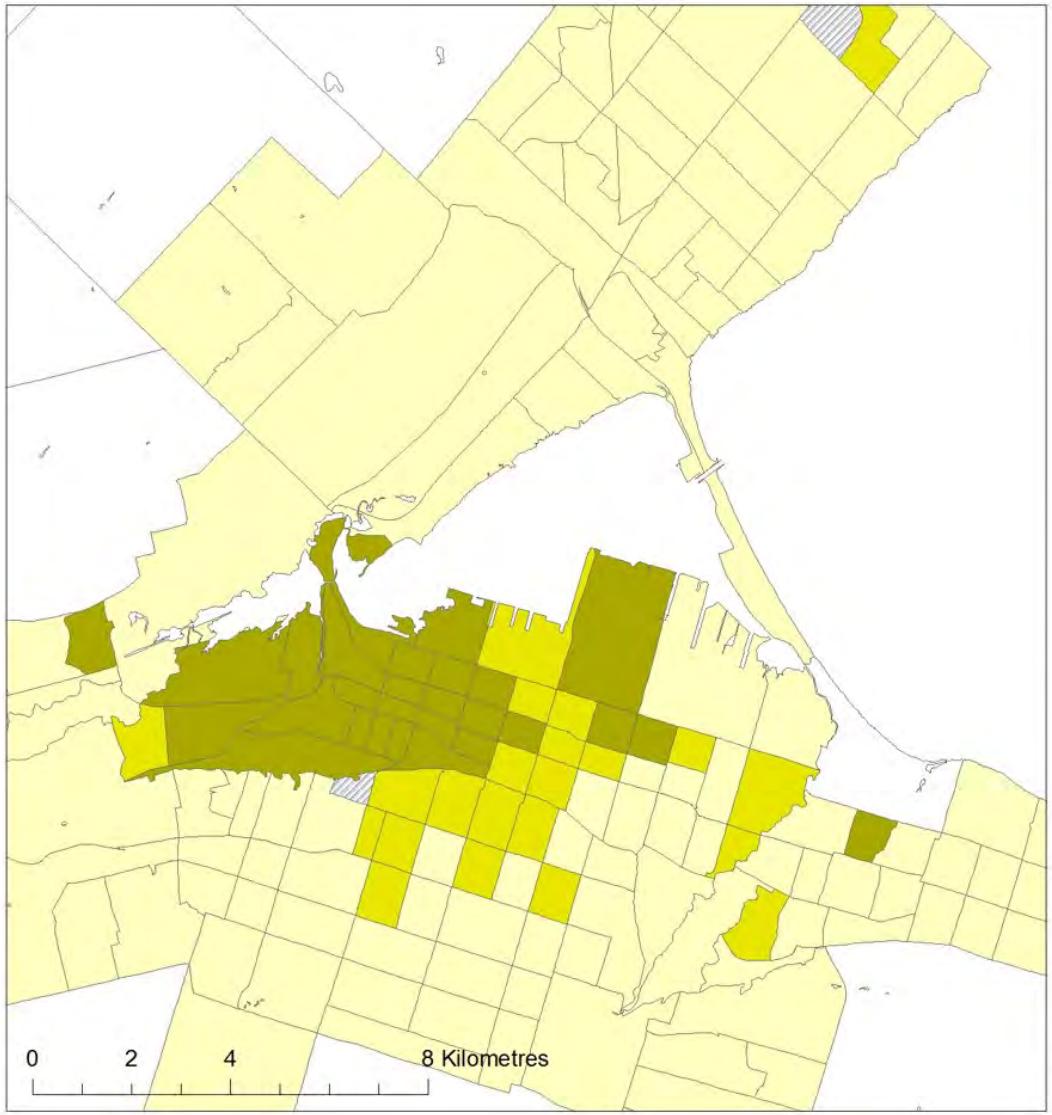


ArcGIS Map

ArcGIS Map overlaid on Google Earth

Hamilton

Transportation T9 Method

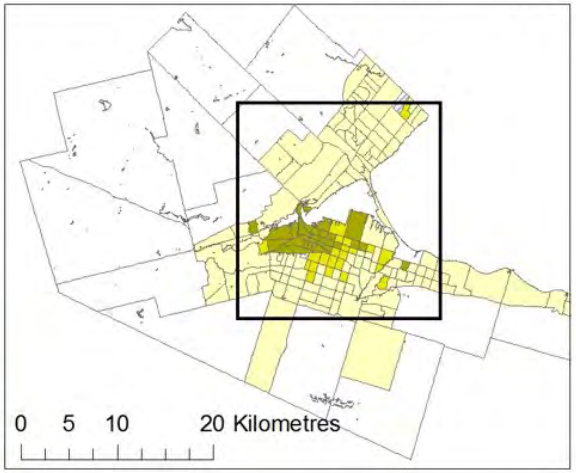


Legend

- Active Core
- Transit Suburb
- Auto Suburb
- Exurban
- Unclassified

Active Core:	12%
Transit Suburb:	10%
Auto Suburb:	71%
Exurban:	6%

Census Tracts and Population Data: 2016 Census
Census Tract Classification: 2016



Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning
Principal Investigator: David Gordon
Research Assistants: Chris Willms, Lyra Hindrichs & Ben McCauley

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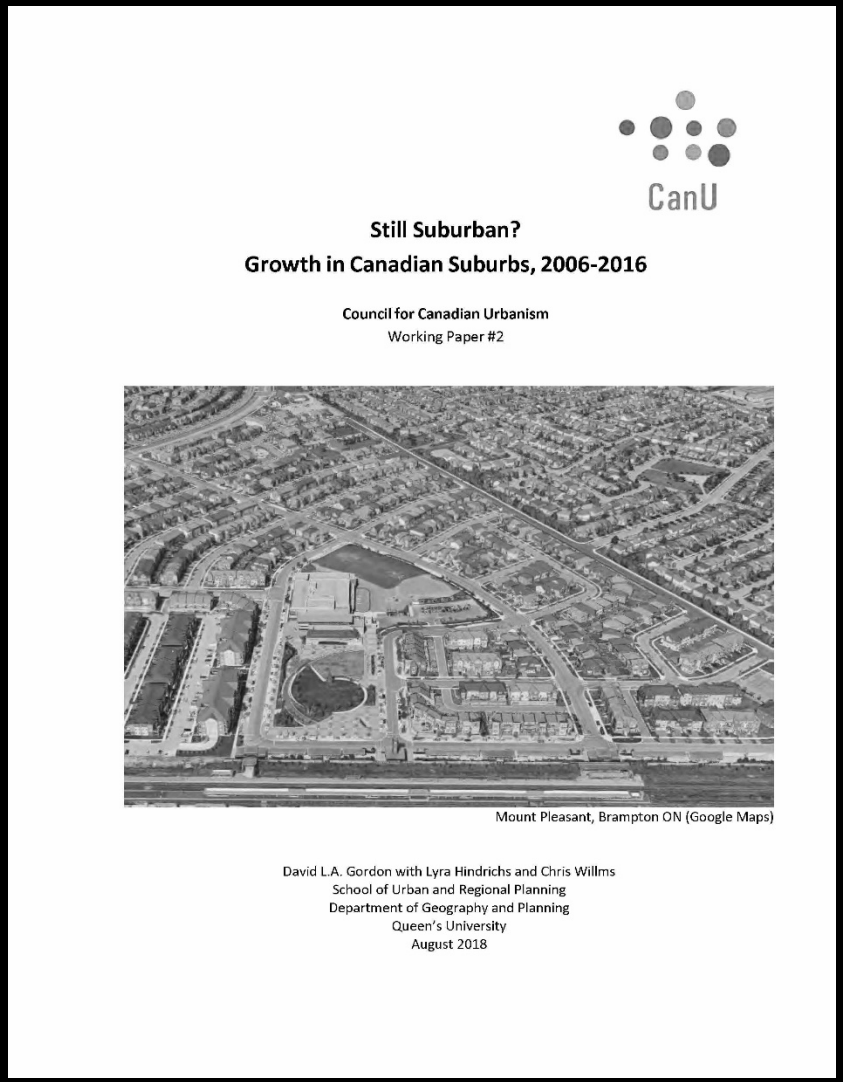
Still Suburban? Growth in Canadian Suburbs, 2006-2016



CanU

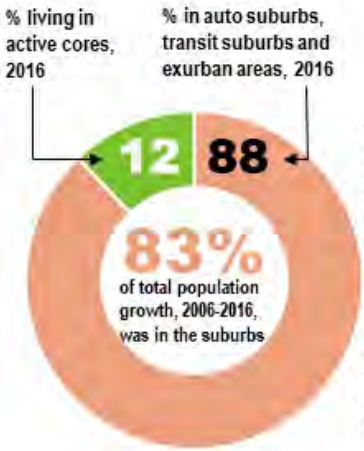
Still Suburban?
Growth in Canadian Suburbs, 2006-2016

Council for Canadian Urbanism
Working Paper #2

Mount Pleasant, Brampton ON (Google Maps)

David L.A. Gordon with Lyra Hindrichs and Chris Willms
School of Urban and Regional Planning
Department of Geography and Planning
Queen's University
August 2018

Cities' Population Growth is in the Suburbs, 2006-2016



Toronto:
2016 CMA population 5,928,040

- In the '416' area, 82% of the growth is in active cores and transit suburbs.
- In the '905' area, 99% of growth is in the auto suburb and exurban areas.

Montréal:
4,098,927

- About 226,000 more people now live off the Island of Montréal than on it.
- On island, 76% of growth is in core and transit areas; off island, 93% of growth is in auto and exurban areas

Vancouver:
2,463,431

- In City of Vancouver, 96% of growth is in core and transit areas.
- In surrounding region it's opposite: 83% of growth is in auto and exurban areas.

Calgary:
1,392,609

- Fastest growing CMA in Canada from 2006-16 (29% or 313,000).
- Third-most percentage growth among all CMAs in auto and exurban areas (31%)

Ottawa-Gatineau:
1,323,783

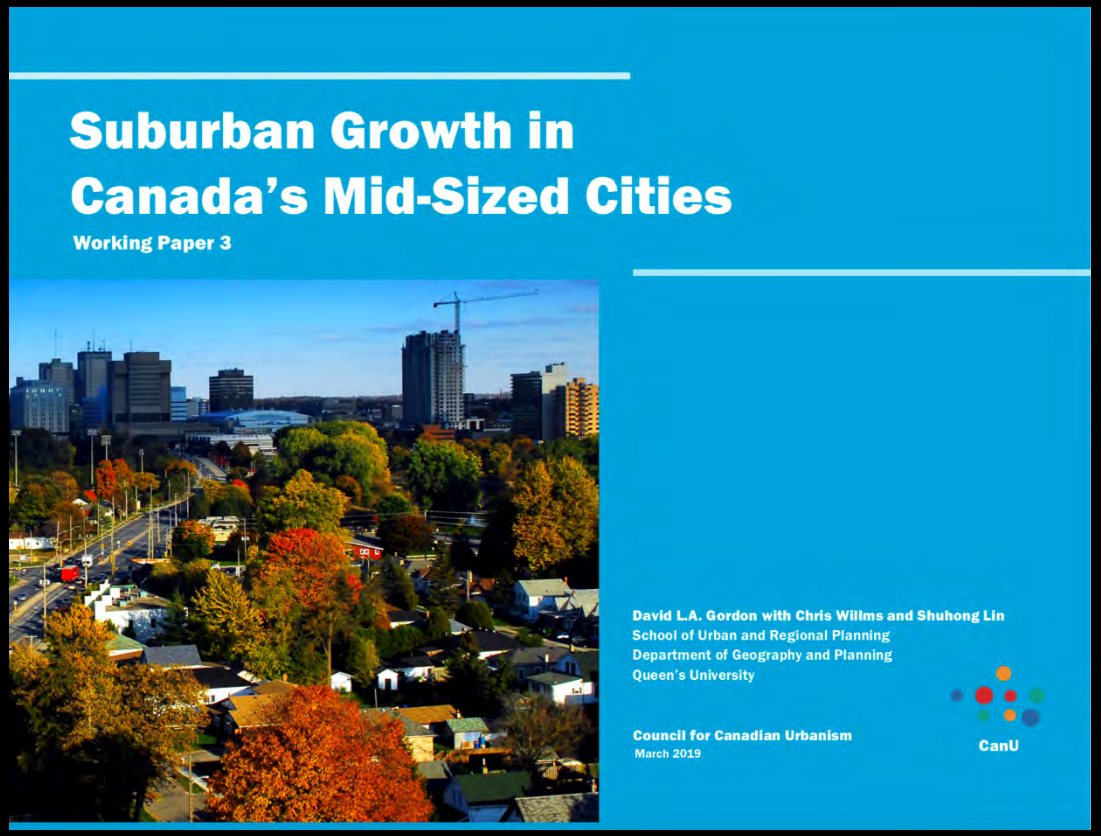
- In the O-G CMA, more people lived outside the Greenbelt & in Gatineau than inside the Greenbelt.
- Least growth in transit and core areas of any major CMA (10,000 or 3%).
- Fastest growing exurbs among large CMAs (21% of total growth)

Edmonton:
1,321,426

- Second-fastest growing CMA in Canada from 2006-16 (27% or 283,000)
- Most percentage growth among all CMAs in auto and exurban areas (33%)

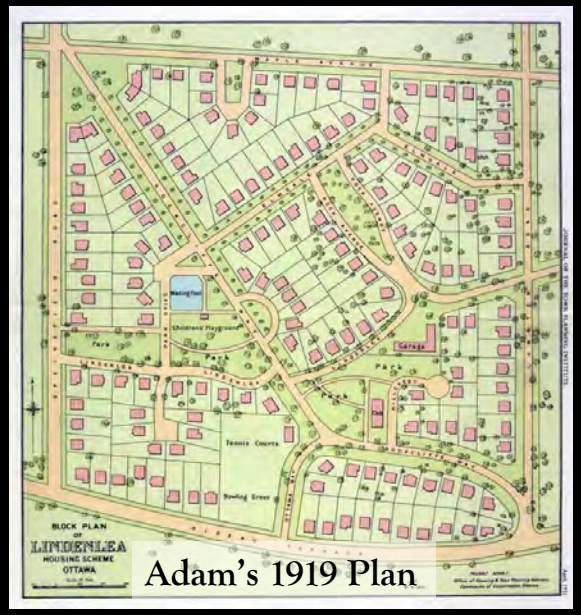
Infographic created by Chris Willms
School of Urban and Regional Planning, Queen's University

Suburban Growth in Canada's Mid-Sized Cities



Learning from the Past: Canadian Urbanism Traditions

Lindenlea | Summary



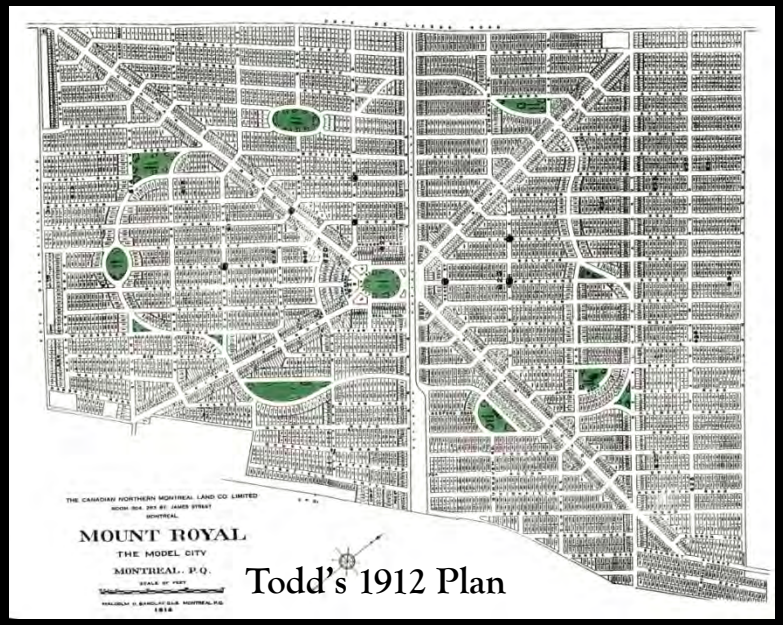
Adam's 1919 Plan

- Designed by Thomas Adams in 1919
- Garden suburb built between 1919-192 by the Ottawa Housing Commission
- Fit with topography
- Mix of street types
- Small scale open spaces
- Use more than one house type

Designed with natural topography

Open space & recreational amenities for the resident

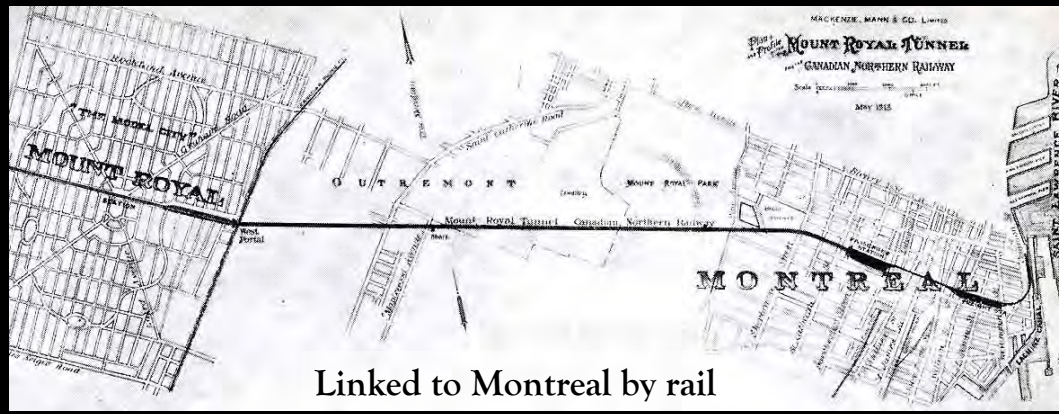
Mount Royal | Summary



Todd's 1912 Plan

- Designed in 1912 by Frederick Todd
- Mixture of street patterns
  - hybrid, diagonal, & curvilinear
- Variety of housing types/architectural styles
- Combination of public transit methods
- Precursor to Calthrope's Transit-Oriented Development
- Wide boulevards and monumental vistas
- Abundance of recreational and open space; healthy living events

One of the various housing styles



Linked to Montreal by rail

Hydrostone & Richmond Dist. | Summary

Hydrostone Retail

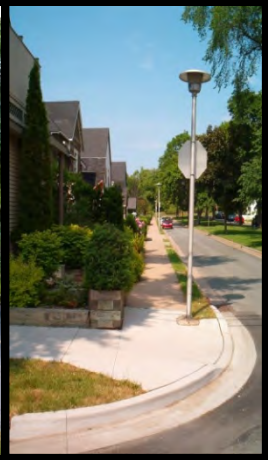
Richmond

- Garden suburb design
- Curving streets: conforming with topography

Hydrostone

- Alternating service lanes and residential streets
- Central boulevard parks
- Affordable housing hydrostone

Richmond School



New Edinburgh | Summary

- Designed 1832-1858 by Thomas McKay and T.C. Keefer
- Grid street pattern with north-south rear lanes
- Variety of housing types/architectural styles
- Considerable recent infill
- Rear lane housing

New Edinburgh in 2005

Examples of rear lane housing

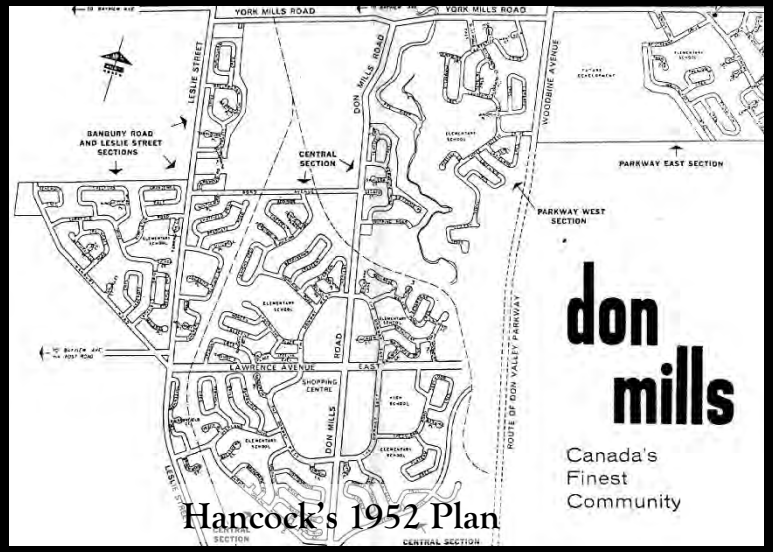
Westdale | Summary

- Designed 1920 by Robert Anderson Pope
- Modified grid street pattern with Village Core
- Variety of housing types/architectural styles
- Front access garages

Village Core 2009

Range of Housing 2009

Don Mills | Summary



Hancock's 1952 Plan

- Designed by Macklin Hancock in 1952
- Perry's neighbourhood unit
- Interconnected open space system; fit with topography
- Hierarchy of streets
- Mix of housing types; design review of houses
- Jobs – housing balance
- Negative: separation of uses and building types

Don Mills in 2007

Schools are located within walking distance of housing

Neighbourhood Statistics | Summary

	Westdale	New Edinburgh	Town of Mount Royal	Hydrostone
Population (2001)	5,470	1,008	18,682	640
Gross Density	9.3uph (4upa)	18uph (7upa)	10uph (4upa)	32uph (13 upa)
Net Density	18.5uph (7upa)	33uph (13upa)	18uph (7upa)	115uph (46upa)
Lot Depth (typical)	35m (115ft)	47m (155ft)	30m (98ft)	25m (82ft)
Lot Frontage (typical)	7.9-11.9m(25-40ft)	18m (60ft)	15m (49ft)	7m (23ft)
ROW Width	20m (66ft)	6-20m (20-66ft)	20m (66ft)	5-10m (16-33ft)
Block Size (typical)	10,500m^2 (2.6a)	13,864m^2 (3.43a)	10,800m^2 (2.7a)	10,500m^2 (2.6a)
Block Frontage (typical)	150m (490ft)	146m (480ft)	180m (590ft)	122m (400ft)
Block Depth (typical)	70m (229ft)	101m (330ft)	60m (197ft)	86m (282ft)