



# **Synopsis of 50 years of Planning in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH), Ontario, Canada**

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# Canada

## Background

- Canada's population is 34,834,841 (July 2014 est.)
- Capital city: Ottawa
- Canada is a parliamentary democracy, a federation, and a constitutional monarchy.
- Canada has 10 provinces and 3 territories.



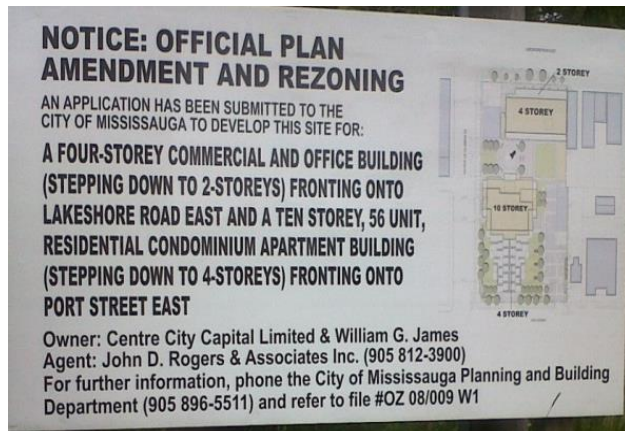
## Planning Overview

- Influence of the British North America Act (BNA) 1867.
- The British Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909 provided a model for Canadian planning legislation.
- Earliest Canadian settlements were under French or British colonial influence (Hodge, 2003:96).
- Various movements such as public health, housing-reform, conservation, and civic-reform contributed to shaping Canadian communities.

# Canada

## Planning Administration

- The Government of Canada is responsible for citizenship and immigration, national defence and trade with other countries.
- Provincial and territorial governments (for example, the Province of Ontario): are responsible for education, health care and highways.
- Municipal (local) governments (cities, towns and villages): are responsible for firefighting, city streets and other local matters.

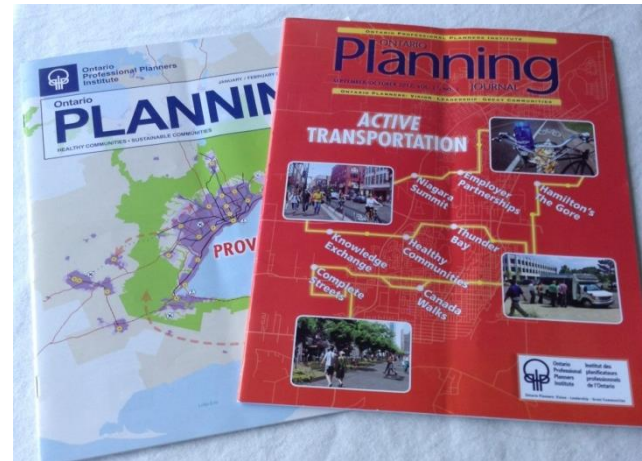


## Municipal Planning Legislation

- **Planning Act:** Provides clear policy direction on land use planning to promote strong communities, a strong economy, and a clean and healthy environment.
- **Provincial and Territorial Planning Acts** (Simmins, 2011):
  - secure the orderly, coherent growth and development of municipalities with considerations of public interest
- **Provincial Policy Statement (PPS):**
  - The PPS is issued under section 3 of the Planning Act and all decisions affecting land use planning matters "shall be consistent with" the Provincial Policy Statement.
- **Official Plans**
  - Contains goals, objectives and policies primarily to manage and direct physical change and the effects on the social, economic and natural environment of the municipality or part of it, or an area that is without municipal organization.

# Genesis of Planning

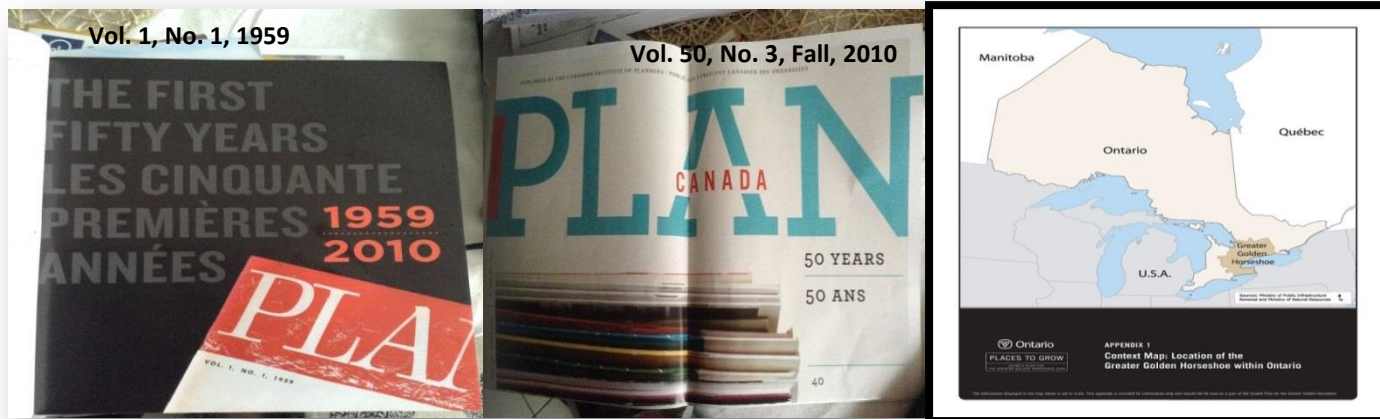
- Genesis of Community Planning in Canada began early 19<sup>th</sup> century (between 1890-1930) in response to problems of urban growth arising from industrial and commercial expansion.
- Issues of disease, public health, safety, pollution, fire, water supply, sanitation, and slum housing laid the ground for community planning.
- Town Planning Club was formed in January 1919 with about 100 practitioners. Town Planning Institute of Canada was formed in May 1919 with 117 members and branches in Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver (Hodge 2003).



- Presently there are about 7800 registered planners in Canada [2.3 Canadian Institute of Planners-CIP members per 10,000; and 60% male and 40% female membership (Skelton, 2010:27)].
- In the 1920s emphasis was on integrated resource planning for regions and regional planning for urban and rural areas.
- Ontario Municipal Act of 1849 was formulated.
- Toronto had a formal planning department by the end of the Second world War.

# Genesis of Planning

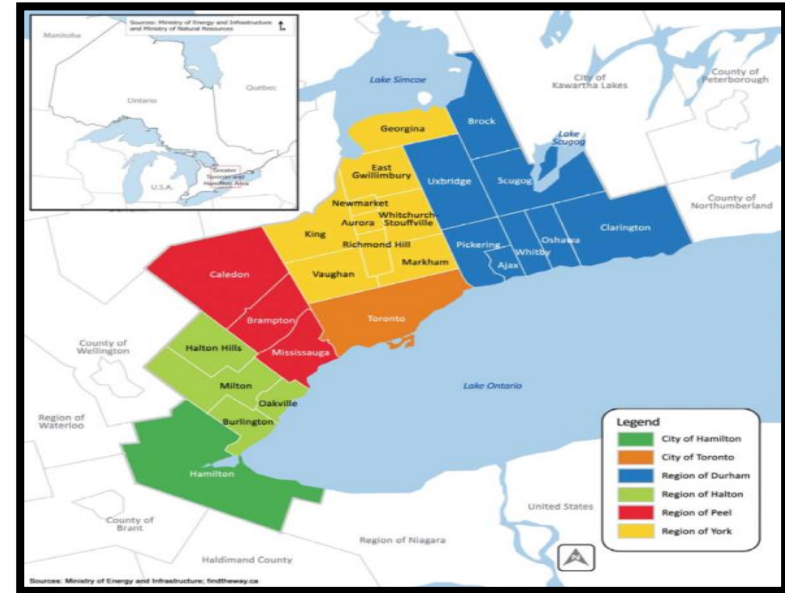
- Ontario's Planning Act of 1946 provides a fundamental framework for planning till today.
- Formation of Civic Improvement Committee in 1909 by Toronto's city council.
- Local governments established in Ontario in 1832 (York, and Toronto and Hamilton).
- The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto is established in 1953- Metro Toronto- amalgamation of 13 local municipalities (Hodge, 2003:270) . Metro Toronto has since evolved and undergone transformations.
- The Ontario government supported new urbanism principles in the 1990s. The resulting policy and legislative framework set an agenda for managing and shaping growth within the **“Greater Golden Horseshoe”** around Toronto, and intensifying development within already urbanized mixed use nodes and corridors (Filion, 2007; Ontario, 2006).
- The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is projected to be the fastest growing region of the Ontario province, with its population between 8.6 m and 11.5 million by 2031.



# Planning in the GGH

## Planning Framework

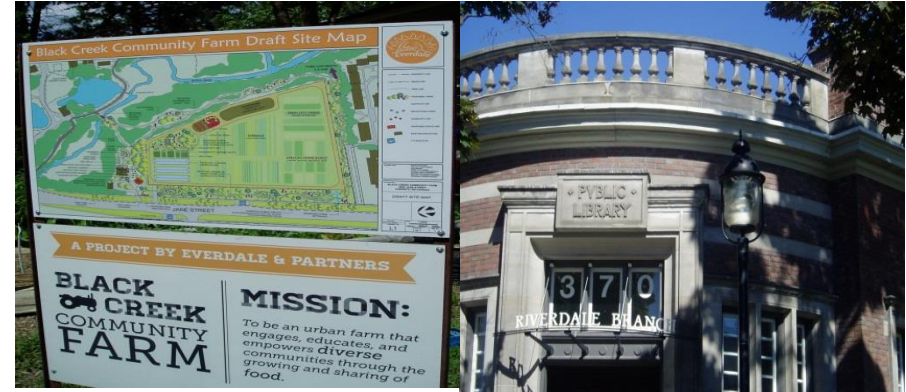
- The Planning Act sets out the ground rules for land use planning and development in Ontario and provides a range of land use planning tools.
- Municipal Official plans set out the broad vision of a community's plans and goals governing land use.
- The Municipal Act, 2001 governs the structure, responsibilities and powers of municipalities in Ontario.
- Development Charges Act, 1997
  - Municipalities can impose development charges for services arising from new development.
- Community Improvement Plans (CIP)
- The Strong Communities (Planning Amendment) Act, 2004, (Bill 26) requires that planning decisions "shall be consistent with" the Provincial Policy Statement.



- Concern for Toronto slums dates back to 1873 and the Toronto Tenement Building Association was established in 1884 (Hodge, 2003:67).
- In 1959 Canada's first major urban renewal project was completed in Regent Park, Toronto, originally built (post war) in 1948.
- The Regent Park major revitalization began in 2005. The 15- to 20-year master plan comprises a 69-acre (28 hectares). It is one of the largest urban redevelopments in Canadian history.

# Planning in the GGH

- Urban Agriculture and Food Security initiatives in the: City of Hamilton Community Garden Policy and Program; Everdale-Black Creek Farm, Toronto; and Waterloo Region.
- Natural Heritage Systems Planning in Waterloo, Vaughan, Ajax, Hamilton.
- Kitchener/Waterloo Credits Policy incentive to reduce storm water runoff.
- Rural Economic Development and Planning in Guelph.
- Toronto's waterfront revitalization projects aims to transform and reenergize the Lake Ontario waterfront.
- The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) includes Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge, Guelph, and Brantford.



- The Places to Grow Act, 2005 is the 25 year Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. This plan includes:
  - Greenfield density targets
  - 40% intensification targets and
  - Planned densities that involve both people and jobs.
- The focus of the Places to Grow plan is the creation of livable, complete and mixed use communities and the Plan identifies 25 urban growth centres.

# Planning in the GGH

- Toronto's greenbelt has two goals to:
  - Contain sprawl in the urbanized area and
  - Permanently protect greenspace and rural areas, and activities that surround the urban area.
- The Greenbelt includes the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP).
- Move Ontario 2020 (The Big Move) involves:
  - Investment in 52 rapid transit lines within the GGH
  - Creating new regional connections.
- Moving People, Moving Goods-provides:
 

densities to support more vibrant, physically active lifestyles, integration of walking and cycling into transportation planning; and linkage of economic corridors (Government of Ontario; Metrolinx; GTTA,2008).
- High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV ) Network Plan provides avenue for car pooling.
  - Bicycle Policy, Bikeways planning and design guidelines
  - Transit Ridership growth Plan
- York Region's "Triple Bottom Line" approach to sustainable transportation development to create economic, social and environmental benefits and values.

