

# **CGEO 793**

## **The Geography of Toronto**

### **Lecture 2**

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# Canada



## Provinces and territories

### Provinces

Alberta  
Ontario  
British Columbia  
Quebec  
Nova Scotia  
New Brunswick  
Manitoba  
Prince Edward Island  
Saskatchewan  
Newfoundland and Labrador

### Territories

Northwest Territories  
Nunavut  
Yukon





## Cities of Canada

Toronto

Montreal

Vancouver

Ottawa

Calgary

Edmonton

Quebec

Winnipeg

Halifax

Victoria

Mississauga

Brampton

Hamilton

## Cities of Canada

Surrey

Laval

London

Markham

Vaughan

Gatineau

Saskatoon

Windsor

Regina

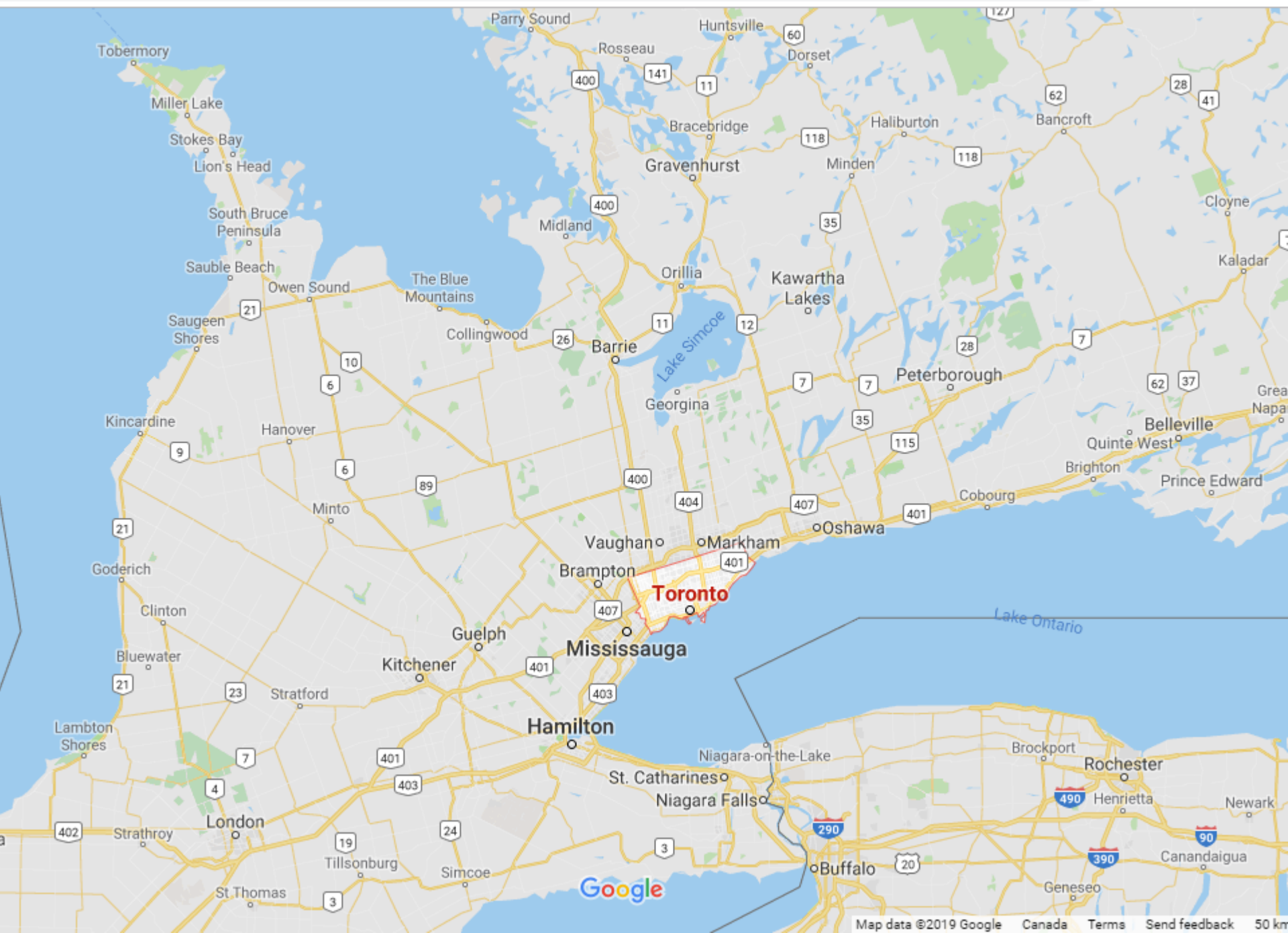
St. John's

Fredericton

Charlottetown









# Greater Toronto Area

**GTA**

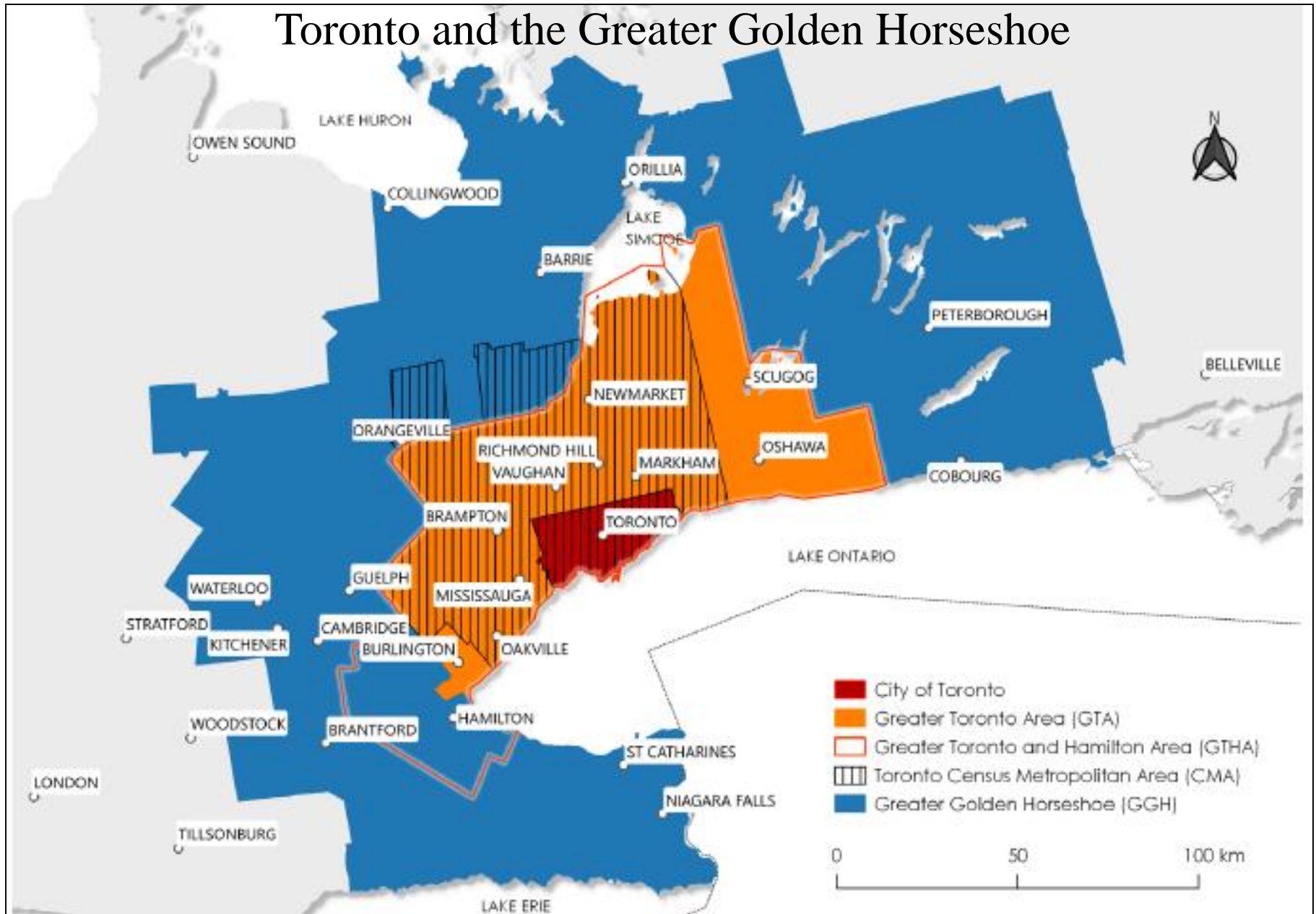


# Toronto Area

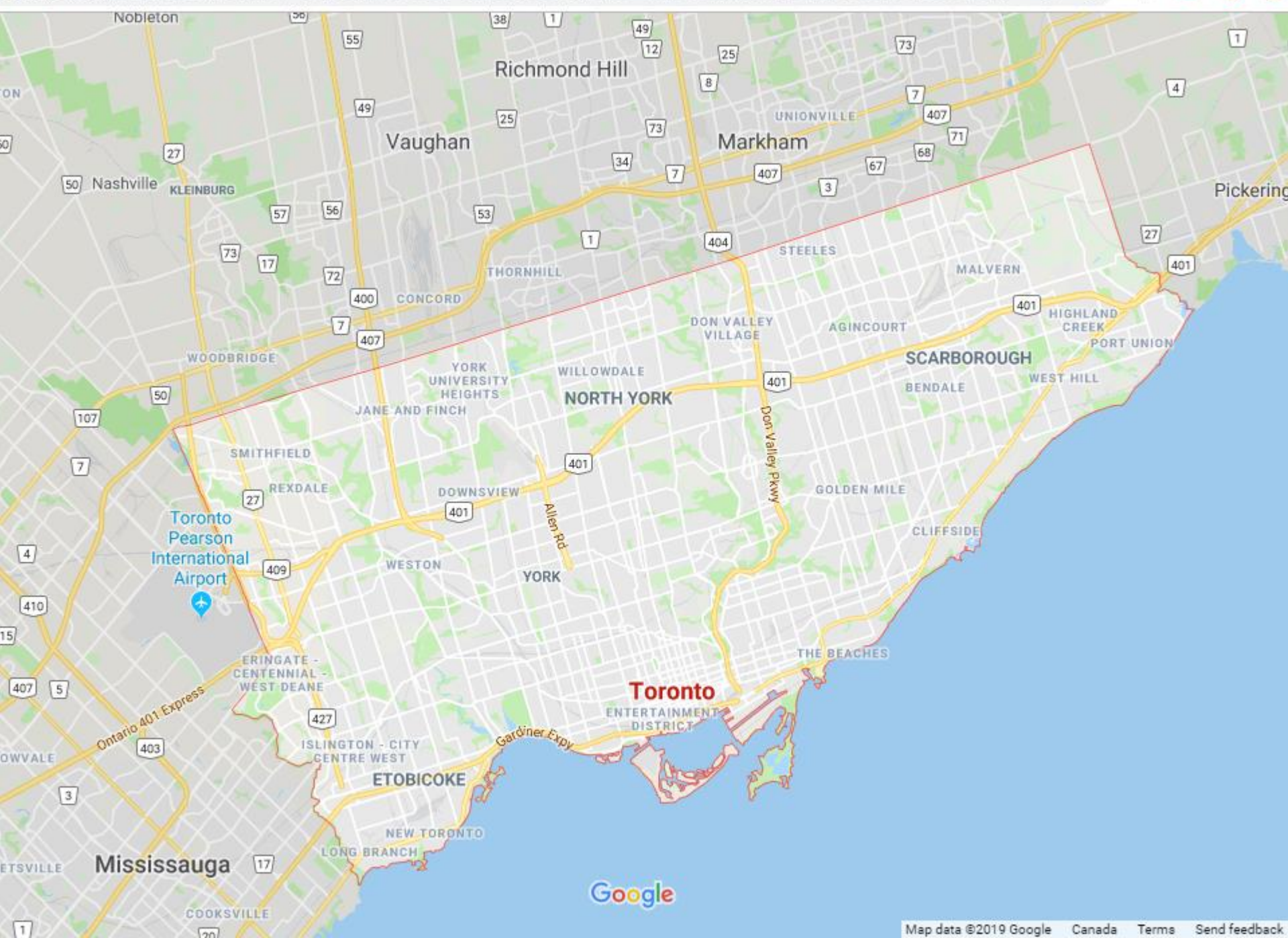
- Located on a broad sloping plateau cut by numerous river valleys, Toronto covers **641 km<sup>2</sup>** and stretches 43 km from east to west and 21 km from north to south at its longest points.

- The City of Toronto sits at the centre of a larger metropolitan area called the **Greater Toronto Area (GTA)**, also known as the **Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)** by Statistics Canada, with slightly different boundaries.

# Toronto and the Greater Golden Horseshoe













# City of Toronto



- Toronto, the capital of the province of Ontario, is a major Canadian city along Lake Ontario's northwestern shore.
- It's a dynamic metropolis with a core of soaring skyscrapers, all dwarfed by the iconic, free-standing CN Tower.
- Toronto also has many green spaces, from the orderly oval of Queen's Park to 400-acre High Park and its trails, sports facilities and zoo.



- Toronto is Canada's largest city and a world leader in business, finance, technology, entertainment, and culture.
- Its large population of immigrants from all over the globe has also made Toronto one of the most multicultural cities in the world.

# Quick facts about Toronto

- 307 km of rivers and creeks run through the city flowing into Lake Ontario.
- There are more than 1,600 named parks comprising more than 8,000 hectares of land (ravines, valleys, woodlots, parks, beaches, golf courses, and parkettes).

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accountability-operations-customer-service/get-involved-how-government-works/toronto-the-toronto-region/>

- Toronto has about 10 million trees, approximately 4 million of which are publicly-owned trees. These include 600,000 street trees and 3.5 million trees in parks, ravines, and other natural areas.
- The City of Toronto owns and operates nearly 100,000 housing units.
- There were more than 106,000 businesses in Toronto in 2017.

# Toronto Population and Districts

➤ Population: **2.93 million (2017)**

➤ Districts:

- [East York](#)
- [Etobicoke](#)
- [North York](#)
- [Old Toronto](#)
- [Scarborough](#)
- [York](#)



- The land, the City of Toronto stands on today is the traditional territory of many nations, including the **Mississauga of the Credit**, the **Anishnabeg**, the **Chippewa**, the **Haudenosaunee**, and the **Wendat** peoples and is now home to many diverse **First Nations**, **Inuit** and **Métis** peoples.
- Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the **Mississauga of the Credit**, and the **Williams Treaty** signed with multiple **Mississaugas** and **Chippewa** Bands.

# How to talk about Indigenous people



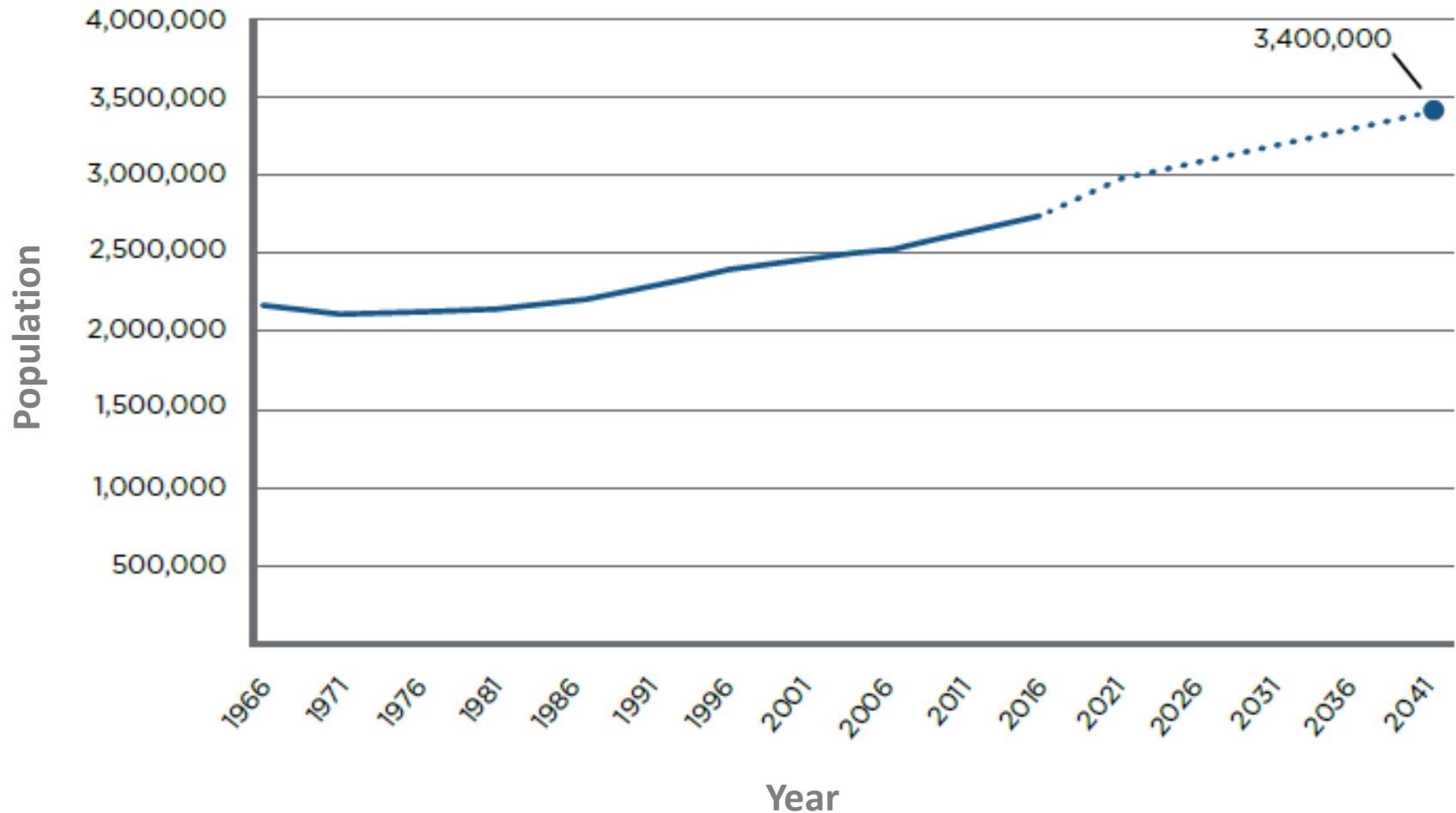
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEzjA5RoLv0>

# Population of Toronto

- Toronto has a large and diverse population. It is home to about **2.9 million** people and is expected to continue to grow steadily.
- In 2017, the Province of Ontario projected that the city of Toronto could grow by 500,000 people in the next 25 years.

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accountability-operations-customer-service/get-involved-how-government-works/toronto-the-toronto-region/>

# Toronto's Population and Population Projections



Source – Census Canada and Ontario Population Projects Update, 2017-2041

- In 2016, there were 46,320 people living in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area who identified as Indigenous.
- Of the people who identified as Indigenous, **60 percent were First Nations** (North American Indian), **33 percent were Métis**, and the remaining **7 percent** identified either as **Inuk (Inuit)** or as holding **multiple or other Indigenous** identities.

- However, studies using different research methods to identify the city's Indigenous population suggest the Census figures may under-represent the population.
- For example, the Our Health Counts Toronto study cited a 2016 Indigenous population in the city that was between 34,000 to 69,000 people.



# Demographic and housing facts:

- Toronto's population grew by 116,511 residents between 2011 and 2016, an increase of 4.5 percent.
- 80,805 new dwellings were added to the city's housing stock between 2011 and 2016.

- **In 2016:**

- There were 1.1 million private households in Toronto. Of these:
  - **53%** of households **owned** their home, while **47% rented**.
  - **26%** of **private** dwellings in Toronto were **condominiums**.
- **52%** or 1.4 million people belonged to a **visible minority group**— the first time this figure surpassed **50%** in Toronto.
- For the first time, there were more people over the age of 65 in Toronto than people under the age of 15. The average Torontonians was **41** years old.

# Economy of Toronto

- Each month, the City releases to the public a **Toronto Economic Bulletin** that provides a snapshot of the regional economy and includes data on the labour market, the size of the economy, real estate activity, retail sales, transportation, and city rankings.
- This information is available at: [www.toronto.ca/toronto-economic-bulletin](http://www.toronto.ca/toronto-economic-bulletin), and provides an update on the GTA as one of the largest regional economies in North America.

- An estimated **\$332 billion** of goods and **services** are produced in the **Toronto region**.
- **Toronto** accounts for just over half of this total at **\$168 billion**, about nine percent of Canada's economic output.

- Toronto offers a rich mix of partners, suppliers, and a talented workforce to companies who do business here.

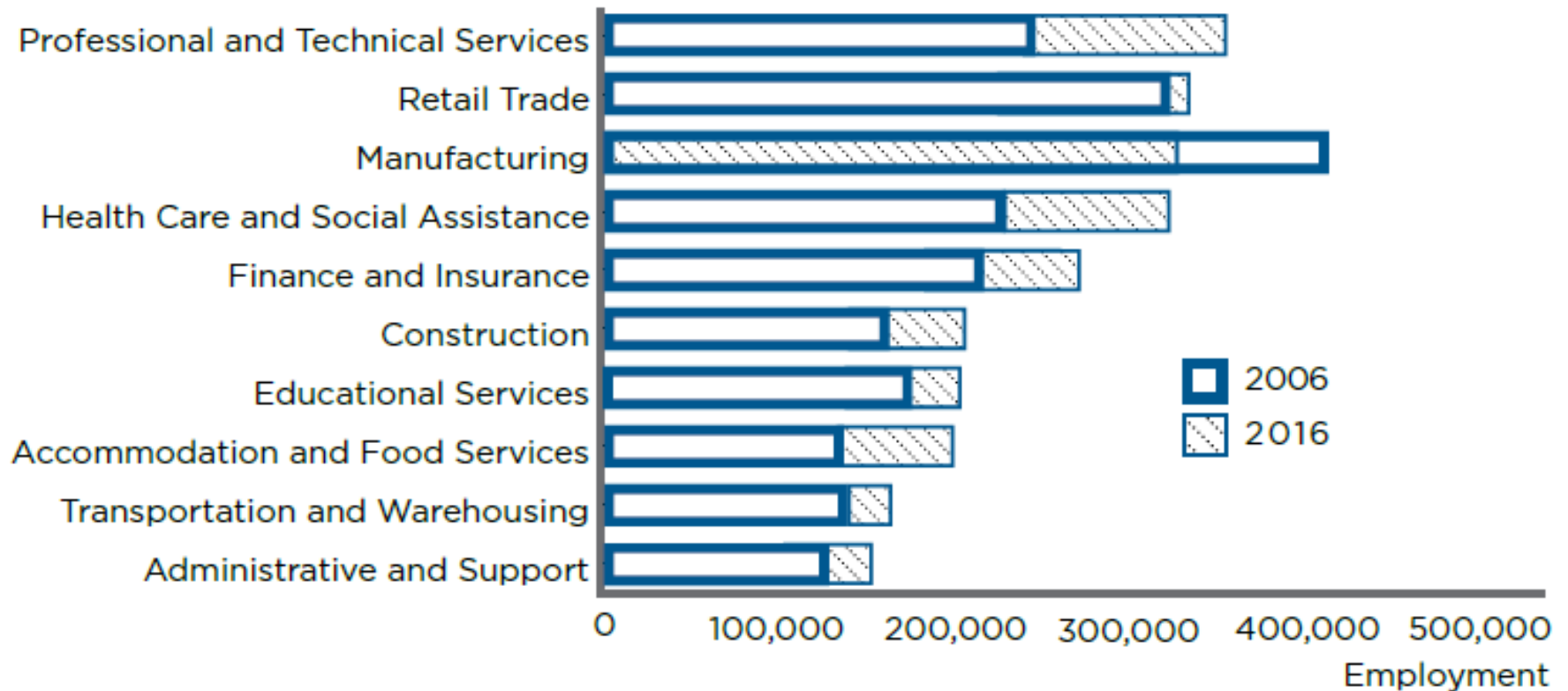
## Economic facts:

- The 2017 City's annual employment survey counted 1.5 million jobs at 75,620 business establishments in the city.
- Professional, scientific, and technical services companies are now the city's largest employers, overtaking manufacturing and retail, since 2006.



# Toronto Census Metropolitan Area Top 10 Industries

## 2006 vs 2016



<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accountability-operations-customer-service/get-involved-how-government-works/toronto-the-toronto-region/>

- The number of **technology employers** in the **Toronto region** is the **largest in Canada** and third largest in North America, behind San Francisco and New York, employing more than 200,000 people at more than 14,600 technology companies.

- **The financial services** sector continues to grow in Toronto, directly employing more than **250,000** people.
- The Toronto region is home to the **head offices of the five largest banks in Canada** and the majority of international banks' subsidiaries and branches in Canada.
- The **production of domestic and foreign film and television** is now a major local industry regularly contributing \$1 billion to the economy and directly employing more than 30,000 people in Toronto.

# The History of Toronto



[https://www.blogto.com/city/2011/12/the\\_history\\_of\\_toronto\\_in\\_photos/](https://www.blogto.com/city/2011/12/the_history_of_toronto_in_photos/)





# The History of Toronto: An 11,000 Year Journey



<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/virtual-exhibits/history-of-toronto/>



- Toronto, on the north-west shore of Lake Ontario, is the largest of Canada's vibrant urban centres.
- It is the hub of the nation's commercial, financial, industrial, and cultural life, and is the capital of the Province of Ontario.
- People have lived in Toronto since shortly after the last ice age, although the urban community only **dates to 1793** when **British colonial officials founded** the '**Town of York**' on what then was the Upper Canadian frontier.

- That backwoods village grew to become the '**City of Toronto**' in **1834**, and through its subsequent evolution and expansion Toronto has emerged as one of the most liveable and multicultural urban places in the world today.
- On the City of Toronto's website you will find a summary of the current scholarly consensus on the main themes in Toronto's past, with an emphasis on the characteristics of life in Toronto through time as well as the changes, issues, and influences that affected the shared experiences of its residents.

### First Peoples

9000 BCE to 1600 CE

### Natives and Newcomers

1600-1793

### A Provincial Centre

1793-1851

### An Industrializing City

1851-1901

### The First Half of the 20th Century

1901-51

### The Modern Metropolis

From 1951

## Credits

**Research and text:** Carl Benn, PhD, City of Toronto Museums & Heritage Services

**Image curation:** Catherine Molnar, MA, City of Toronto Museums & Heritage Services

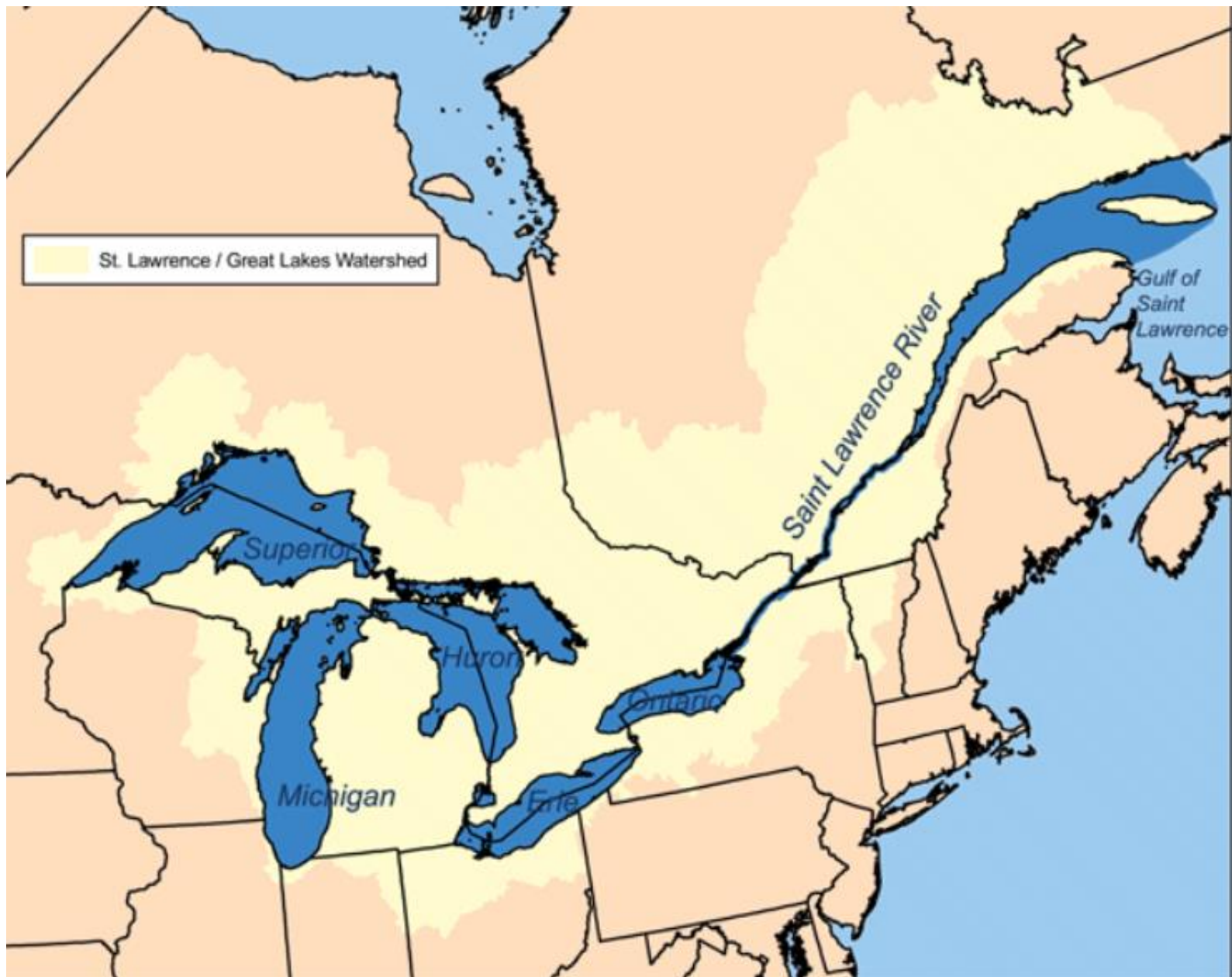
**Map design and cartography:** Kevin Hebib, City of Toronto Museums & Heritage Services

<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/virtual-exhibits/history-of-toronto/>

# First Peoples, 9000 BCE to 1600 CE

- Approximately 13,000 years ago, the one-kilometre-thick glaciers of the last ice age melted northwards from southern Ontario, and in their wake, left behind large meltwater lakes.
- Geologists call one of those bodies of water – a kind of large version of Lake Ontario – ‘**Lake Iroquois.**’
- Its water level was 40 metres higher than today’s lake, and thus its shoreline stood at the hill by **Davenport Road** (meaning that the present-day downtown was once underwater).

- Around 11,700 years ago, Lake Iroquois found a new outlet to the Atlantic Ocean – the **St Lawrence** – instead of its earlier Mohawk and Hudson river routes.
- That caused the lake to drain to a level 100 metres below that of today's Lake Ontario by roughly 11,400 years ago, and thus its shoreline stood far to the south of the modern one.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Lawrence\\_River#/media/File:Grlakes\\_lawrence\\_map.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Lawrence_River#/media/File:Grlakes_lawrence_map.png)

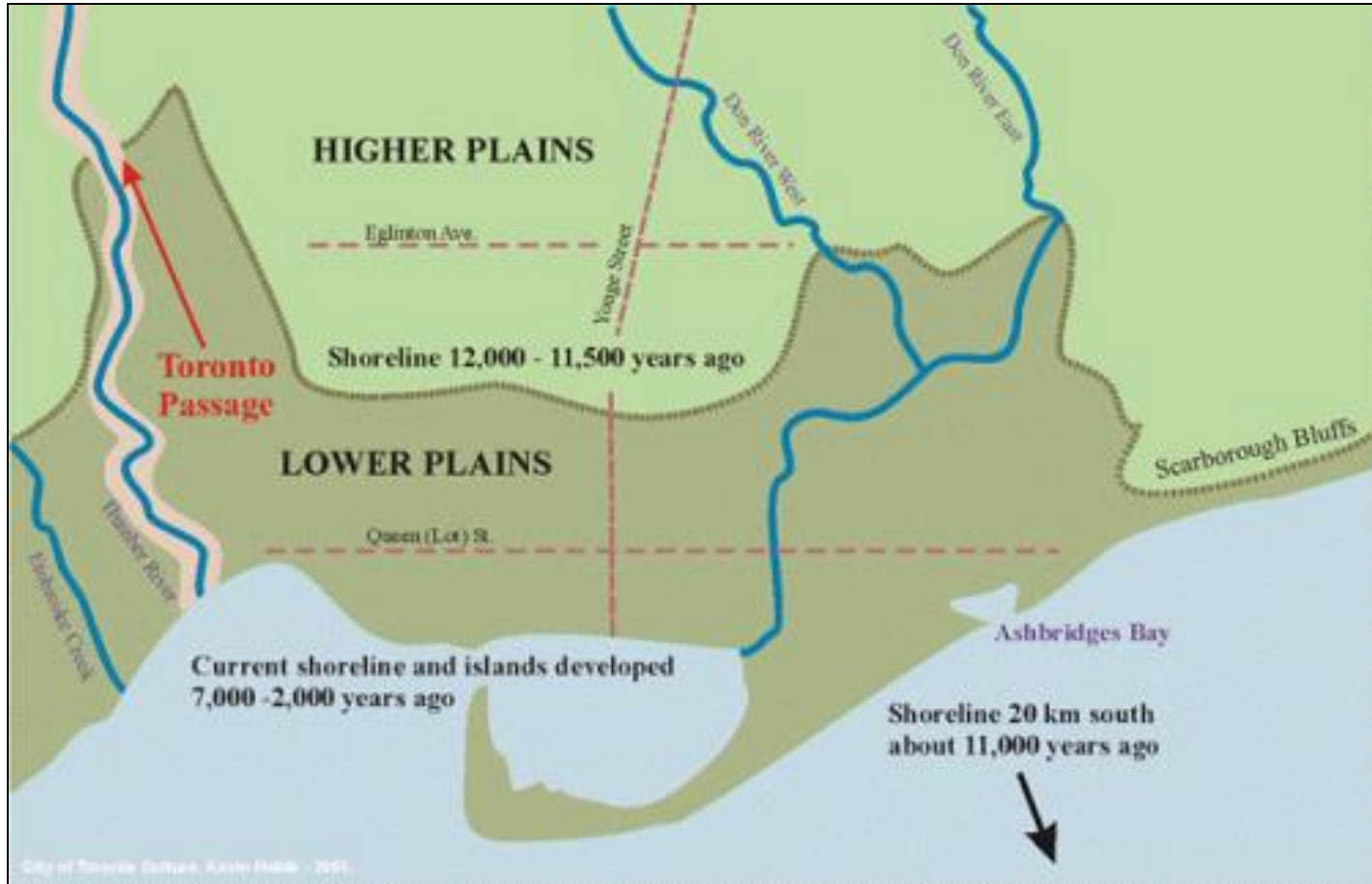
# Ancient Toronto

- Around 10,500-11,000 years ago, a small number of people moved into the cold sub-arctic landscape of ancient Ontario from the south to pursue the big game animals that preceded them.
- With the shoreline of ancient Lake Ontario lying about 20 kilometres south of modern Toronto, many of the campsites of these people are now lost to archaeologists.



- Nevertheless, from other sites in Ontario, we know that these early inhabitants fished and gathered but relied mainly on hunting caribou, as well as mammoths, mastodons, and smaller animals, in a region consisting of tundra and boreal forest.
- During the course of each year, they travelled across large distances in family-sized bands to sustain themselves.

# Ancient Toronto (City of Toronto Culture)



<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/virtual-exhibits/history-of-toronto/first-peoples-9000-bce-to-1600-ce/>

# New Crops and the Emergence of Iroquoian Cultures, 600-1600

- By about 8,000 years ago, the climate had warmed to a point comparable to modern levels, which allowed for a new kind of temperate forest environment to evolve in southern Ontario.
- During this transition, much of the big game became extinct, the caribou drifted north, but white-tailed deer moved in to take their place.

- Another development that helped to define the Toronto area occurred between roughly 7,000 and 2,000 years ago: rising water levels in Lake Ontario and soil erosion from Scarborough Bluffs created the Toronto Islands, the harbour, and a mainland shoreline similar to the modern one.

- At some point in the distant past, indigenous people discovered a **convenient shortcut** between Lake Ontario in the south and Georgian Bay in the north.
- Later known as the '**Toronto Passage**,' main branches of this route ran north from the Humber and Rouge rivers, across the Oak Ridges Moraine, into the Lake Simcoe drainage basin, and then to Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, and the world beyond.

- People expanded the range of foodstuffs they used to support themselves as the climate and environment evolved, with fishing in particular growing in importance.
- Over the millennia, these indigenous societies grew in complexity. For instance, related families began to congregate in large spring and summer camps near the mouths of rivers to catch fish, trade, and engage in communal social and spiritual events around 3,000 years ago.

- Physically, the increasing cultural maturity was represented by the introduction of such technological innovations as pottery and bows and arrows.
- The population also rose through the centuries, to roughly 10,000 in southern Ontario by about 1,500 years ago, with possibly 500 people living along each of the major rivers in the Toronto area.



- The various communities seem to have shared ideas and cultural practices widely with other groups, indicating that they engaged in a significant degree of interaction across Ontario and beyond.

- As part of the exchange of technologies and ideas in native North America, corn, beans, squash, sunflowers, and tobacco were introduced into Ontario from the south.
- Scholars are uncertain as to when **corn** arrived, but they favour a point roughly **1,400 years ago.**

- They disagree on whether the important crops of beans and squash appeared at the same time as corn or if they came in subsequent centuries.
- They also do not agree on whether the horticultural societies that emerged in Ontario arose from within the existing, long-standing population, or consisted of other native people who moved here from the south, or were a mix of indigenous and immigrant groups.

- Nevertheless, they believe that crops became increasingly important in people's diets as the centuries passed.
- In the process, the move towards reliance on farming helped to shape the horticultural Iroquoian societies that developed about 1,100 years ago in the lower Great Lakes.

*(Iroquoians comprised people who belonged to the same language group, in contrast to the other main indigenous language group in the Great Lakes, the Algonkian.)*

- An important shift that came with the adaptation of horticulture was that people slowly abandoned much of the mobility that had characterized life in southern Ontario for thousands of years.
- In its place semi-permanent villages developed, from which people moved out during parts of the year to hunt, fish, gather, or otherwise meet their subsistence needs as supplements to the farming that lay at the heart of their work.



Axe Head, C.1000 BCE; Arrowheads, C.500-300 BCE (City of Toronto Culture)

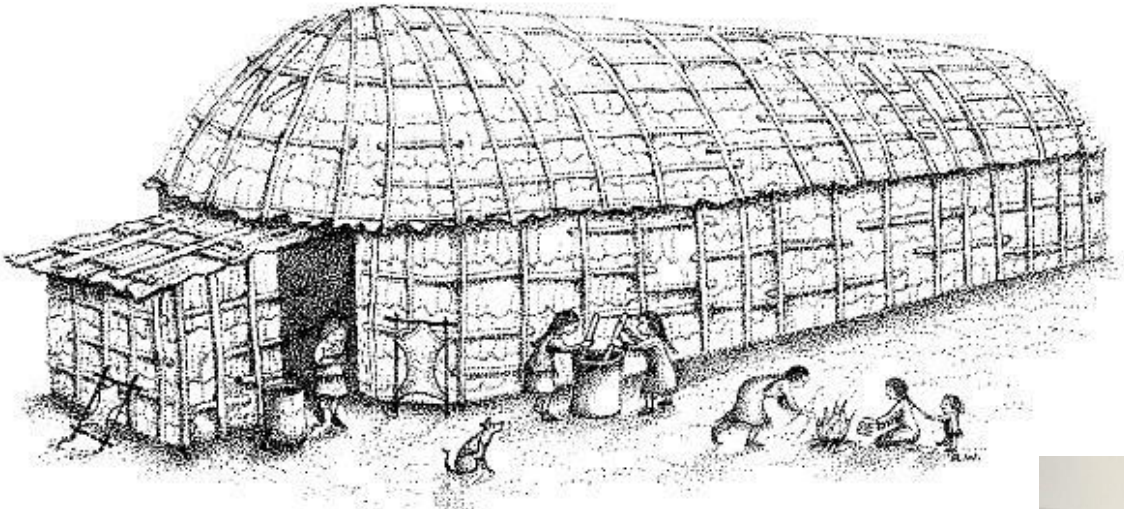


Ceramic Pot and Bird Effigy, C.1300-50 (Archaeological Services Inc.)

- Iroquoian villages changed over time, and by a point about 700 years ago these communities reached their 'classic' appearance, typically consisting of longhouses, sometimes surrounded by defensive stockades, overlooking cultivated fields.
- Often Iroquoian villages were located on higher, defensible ground, but nevertheless, access to waterways and wetlands was important in choosing settlement locations because of their place in supporting fishing, hunting, and gathering, as well as for travelling for trade, diplomatic, and military purposes.



# Longhouse



<http://www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/sm/en/BehindTheScenes/index.htm>

# Stockade



<https://petiteguerretosoldiers.com/stockade-fort/>

- There were early versions of these Iroquoian villages in the Toronto region starting about 1,100 years ago, although perhaps the most famous community from an archaeological perspective was the 15th-century Parsons site south of York University.
- **Parsons site:** excavated in 1952-53, this settlement was located on a promontory overlooking Black Creek, near today's Finch Ave West and Keele St., and yielded 250,000 artifacts including stone and copper tools, ceramic pots, and human and animal remains.

- **Downsview:** located 2 km south of **Parsons**, this village was on a flat summit and terraced side of a hill along the bank of Black Creek.
- **Black Creek:** located 2 km south of **Downsview**, this Humber Valley settlement was on a low terrace of the Black Creek floodplain and features a rare double palisade (fence).
- Yet, other sites exist to tell us about Iroquoian Toronto, such as the important 14th-century **Alexandra site** in Scarborough, discovered only in 2000.

- **Iroquoian villages** typically lasted from 10 to 20 years before their inhabitants relocated to new sites when the longhouses deteriorated, the fields became sterile and infertile, and people had to walk longer distances for firewood and other necessities that previously had been found close to home.
- After being abandoned, the old stockades and longhouses could be taken apart for building materials and firewood but eventually the forest reclaimed the former village sites and the soil gradually regained its fertility.

- During that process, the old settlements served as meadowlands and thinly forested environments, which attracted deer and helped to sustain the animal population that people utilized for food, clothing, and other materials.