[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use Canadian English](/wiki/Template:Use_Canadian_English) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement) **Toronto** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en),[Template:RefnTemplate:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)) is the [most populous city](/wiki/List_of_the_100_largest_municipalities_in_Canada_by_population) in [Canada](/wiki/Canada),[[1]](#cite_note-1) the [provincial](/wiki/Provinces_and_territories_of_Canada) [capital](/wiki/Capital_city) of [Ontario](/wiki/Ontario),[[2]](#cite_note-2) and the centre of the [Greater Toronto Area](/wiki/Greater_Toronto_Area), the [most populous metropolitan area](/wiki/List_of_census_metropolitan_areas_and_agglomerations_in_Canada) in Canada.[[3]](#cite_note-3) In the [2011 census](/wiki/Canada_2011_Census), Toronto had a population of 2,615,060, making it the fifth largest city in [North America](/wiki/North_America).<ref name=2011censusCSD>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> A population estimate from a city report released in 2013 shows the city is now the [fourth most populous](/wiki/List_of_North_American_cities_by_population) city in North America, after [Mexico City](/wiki/Mexico_City), [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City), and [Los Angeles](/wiki/Los_Angeles).[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) A [global city](/wiki/Global_city),[[6]](#cite_note-6) Toronto is an international centre of business, finance, arts, and culture,[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8) and is widely recognized as one of the most [multicultural](/wiki/Multiculturalism) and [cosmopolitan](/wiki/Cosmopolitanism) cities in the world.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10)<ref name=cosmopolitan\_city>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12) [Aboriginal peoples](/wiki/Aboriginal_peoples_in_Canada) have inhabited the area now known as Toronto for thousands of years.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The urban [history of the city](/wiki/History_of_Toronto) dates back to 1787, when [British officials](/wiki/The_Crown) negotiated the [Toronto Purchase](/wiki/Toronto_Purchase) with the [Mississaugas of the New Credit](/wiki/Mississaugas_of_the_New_Credit_First_Nation).[[14]](#cite_note-14) They established the [Town of York](/wiki/York,_Upper_Canada), and later designated it as the capital of [Upper Canada](/wiki/Upper_Canada).[[15]](#cite_note-15) During the [War of 1812](/wiki/War_of_1812), the town was the site of the [Battle of York](/wiki/Battle_of_York) and suffered heavy damage by [U.S. troops](/wiki/United_States_Armed_Forces).[[16]](#cite_note-16) York was [renamed](/wiki/Name_of_Toronto) and incorporated as the City of Toronto in 1834, and became the capital of the province of Ontario in [1867](/wiki/Canadian_Confederation).[[17]](#cite_note-17) The [original borders](/wiki/Old_Toronto) of Toronto were expanded through [amalgamation](/wiki/Amalgamation_of_Toronto) with surrounding municipalities at various times in its history, the results of which can be seen in the 140 independently unique and clearly defined official [neighbourhoods](/wiki/List_of_neighbourhoods_in_Toronto) that make up the city.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Located in [Southern Ontario](/wiki/Southern_Ontario) on the northwestern shore of [Lake Ontario](/wiki/Lake_Ontario), Toronto is situated on a broad sloping plateau intersected by an extensive network of [rivers, deep ravines, and urban forest](/wiki/Toronto_ravine_system).<ref name=Geography\_Toronto\_Facts>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> It anchors the [Golden Horseshoe](/wiki/Golden_Horseshoe), a densely populated region surrounding the western end of Lake Ontario that is home to 8.7 million people,[[19]](#cite_note-19) or around 26% of the entire [population of Canada](/wiki/Population_of_Canada).[[20]](#cite_note-20) The [demographics of Toronto](/wiki/Demographics_of_Toronto) make it one of the world's most [diverse](/wiki/Multiculturalism) cities,[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) with about 50% of residents having been born in a country other than Canada,[[21]](#cite_note-21) and over 200 distinct [ethnic origins](/wiki/Ethnic_origin) represented among its inhabitants.<ref name=Diversity\_Toronto\_Facts>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The vastly international population of the city reflects its current and historical role as an important destination for [immigrants to Canada](/wiki/Immigration_to_Canada).[[21]](#cite_note-21)<ref name=diverse\_city>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> While [English](/wiki/English_language) is the primary language spoken by the majority of Torontonians, there are over 160 different languages spoken in the city.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Toronto is a prominent centre for music,[[23]](#cite_note-23) theatre,[[24]](#cite_note-24) motion picture production,[[25]](#cite_note-25) and television production,[[26]](#cite_note-26) and is home to the headquarters of Canada's major national [broadcast networks](/wiki/Broadcast_network) and [media](/wiki/Media_in_Toronto) outlets.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Its varied [cultural institutions](/wiki/Culture_in_Toronto),[[28]](#cite_note-28) which include numerous [museums and galleries](/wiki/List_of_museums_in_Toronto), [festivals and public events](/wiki/Annual_events_in_Toronto), entertainment districts, [national historic sites](/wiki/List_of_National_Historic_Sites_of_Canada_in_Toronto), and [sports activities](/wiki/Toronto_sports),[[29]](#cite_note-29) are key [attractions](/wiki/Attractions_in_Toronto) to the over 25 million [tourists](/wiki/Tourism_in_Toronto) that visit the city each year.[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31) Toronto is well known for its [skyscrapers and high-rise buildings](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Toronto),[[32]](#cite_note-32) in particular the tallest free-standing structure in the [Western Hemisphere](/wiki/Western_Hemisphere), the [CN Tower](/wiki/CN_Tower).[[33]](#cite_note-33) As Canada's commercial capital, the city is home to the [Toronto Stock Exchange](/wiki/Toronto_Stock_Exchange), the headquarters of Canada's [five largest banks](/wiki/Big_Five_(banks)),[[34]](#cite_note-34) and the headquarters of many large Canadian and multinational corporations.[[35]](#cite_note-35) Its [economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Toronto) is highly diversified with strengths in technology, design, financial services, life sciences, education, arts, fashion, business services, environmental innovation, food services, and tourism.<ref name=TorontoEconomy>[City of Toronto](http://www.toronto.ca/) (2007) – [Toronto economic overview](http://www.toronto.ca/invest-in-toronto/tor_overview.htm), [Key industry clusters](http://www.toronto.ca/invest-in-toronto/clusteroverview.htm). Retrieved March 1, 2015.</ref>[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37)

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

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### Before 1800[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

When Europeans first arrived at the site of present-day Toronto, the vicinity was inhabited by the [Iroquois](/wiki/Iroquois),[[38]](#cite_note-38) who by then had displaced the [Wyandot people](/wiki/Wyandot_people) that had occupied the region for centuries before c. 1500.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The name *Toronto* is likely derived from the Iroquois word *tkaronto*, meaning "place where trees stand in the water".<ref name=etymology>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> This refers to the northern end of what is now [Lake Simcoe](/wiki/Lake_Simcoe), where the Huron had planted tree saplings to corral fish. A [portage](/wiki/Portage) route from Lake Ontario to [Lake Huron](/wiki/Lake_Huron) running through this point, the [Toronto Carrying-Place Trail](/wiki/Toronto_Carrying-Place_Trail), led to widespread use of the name. In the 1660s, the [Iroquois established two villages](/wiki/Iroquois_settlement_of_the_north_shore_of_Lake_Ontario) within what is today Toronto, [Ganatsekwyagon](/wiki/Bead_Hill) on the banks of the [Rouge River](/wiki/Rouge_River_(Ontario)) and [Teiaiagonon](/wiki/Teiaiagon) the banks of the [Humber River](/wiki/Humber_River_(Ontario)). By 1701, the [Mississauga](/wiki/Mississaugas) had displaced the Iroquois, who abandoned the Toronto area at the end of the [Beaver Wars](/wiki/Beaver_Wars).[[40]](#cite_note-40) French traders founded [Fort Rouillé](/wiki/Fort_Rouillé) on the current [Exhibition grounds](/wiki/Exhibition_Place) in 1750, but abandoned it in 1759.<ref name=rouille>[Fort Rouillé](http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/jarvisci/toronto/rouille.htm), Jarvis Collegiate Institute (2006). Retrieved December 8, 2006.</ref> During the [American Revolutionary War](/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War), the region saw an influx of [British](/wiki/British_Empire) settlers as [United Empire Loyalists](/wiki/United_Empire_Loyalist) fled for the unsettled lands north of Lake Ontario. In 1787, the British negotiated the [Toronto Purchase](/wiki/Toronto_Purchase) with the [Mississaugas](/wiki/Mississaugas) of [New Credit](/wiki/Mississaugas_of_the_New_Credit_First_Nation), thereby securing more than a quarter million acres (1000 km2) of land in the Toronto area.<ref name=British>[Natives and newcomers, 1600–1793](http://www.toronto.ca/culture/history/history-natives-newcomers.htm), City of Toronto (2006). Retrieved December 8, 2006.</ref>

In 1793, Governor [John Graves Simcoe](/wiki/John_Graves_Simcoe) established the town of [York](/wiki/York,_Upper_Canada) on the existing settlement, naming it after [Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany](/wiki/Prince_Frederick,_Duke_of_York_and_Albany). Simcoe chose the town to replace [Newark](/wiki/Niagara-on-the-Lake) as the capital of [Upper Canada](/wiki/Upper_Canada),[[41]](#cite_note-41) believing that the new site would be less vulnerable to attack by the US.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The [York garrison](/wiki/Fort_York) was constructed at the entrance of the town's natural harbour, sheltered by a long sandbar peninsula. The town's settlement formed at the eastern end of the harbour behind the peninsula, near the present-day intersection of [Parliament Street](/wiki/Parliament_Street_(Toronto)) and [Front Street](/wiki/Front_Street_(Toronto)) (in the "[Old Town](/wiki/Old_Town,_Toronto)" area).

### 1800–1945[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[left|thumb|Map of Toronto, 1894](/wiki/File:Toronto_1894large.jpg) In 1813, as part of the [War of 1812](/wiki/War_of_1812), the [Battle of York](/wiki/Battle_of_York) ended in the town's capture and plunder by US forces.[[43]](#cite_note-43) The surrender of the town was negotiated by [John Strachan](/wiki/John_Strachan). US soldiers destroyed much of the garrison and set fire to the parliament buildings during their five-day occupation. The sacking of York was a primary motivation for the [Burning of Washington](/wiki/Burning_of_Washington) by British troops later in the war. York was incorporated as the City of Toronto on March 6, 1834, reverting to its original native name.

The population of only 9,000 included escaped [African American](/wiki/African_Americans) slaves, some of whom were brought by the Loyalists, including [Mohawk](/wiki/Mohawk_people) leader [Joseph Brant](/wiki/Joseph_Brant).<ref name=black>[Black history at the City of Toronto Archives](http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=53c9757ae6b31410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnextchannel=6c21226b48c21410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD), City of Toronto (2009). Retrieved March 13, 2009.</ref> Torontonians integrated people of colour into their society. In the 1840s an eating house operating on Frederick and King, a place of mercantile prosperity in early Toronto, was operated by a man of colour named Bloxom.[[44]](#cite_note-44) [Slavery](/wiki/Slavery_in_Canada) was banned outright in Upper Canada in 1834. Reformist politician [William Lyon Mackenzie](/wiki/William_Lyon_Mackenzie) became the first Mayor of Toronto and led the unsuccessful [Upper Canada Rebellion](/wiki/Upper_Canada_Rebellion) of 1837 against the British colonial government. The city grew rapidly through the remainder of the 19th century, as a major destination for immigrants to Canada. The first significant population influx occurred when the [Great Irish Famine](/wiki/Great_Famine_(Ireland)) brought a large number of Irish to the city, some of them transient and most of them [Catholic](/wiki/Catholicism). By 1851, the Irish-born population had become the largest single ethnic group in the city. Smaller numbers of [Protestant](/wiki/Protestantism) Irish immigrants were welcomed by the existing Scottish and English population, giving the [Orange Order](/wiki/Orange_Order) significant and long-lasting influence over Toronto society.

Toronto was twice for brief periods the capital of the united [Province of Canada](/wiki/Province_of_Canada): first from 1849 to 1852, following unrest in Montreal, and later 1856–1858 after which Quebec became the capital until 1866 (one year before [Confederation](/wiki/Canadian_Confederation)); since then, the capital of Canada has remained [Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa).[[45]](#cite_note-45) Toronto became the capital of the province of Ontario after its official creation in 1867, the seat of government located at the Ontario Legislature located at [Queen's Park](/wiki/Queen's_Park_(Toronto)). Because of its provincial capital status, the city was also the location of [Government House](/wiki/Government_House_(Ontario)), the residence of the [viceregal](/wiki/Viceroy) representative of [the Crown](/wiki/Monarchy_of_Canada) [in right of Ontario](/wiki/Monarchy_in_Ontario). [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Yonge_Street_crowd_celebrating_the_end_of_the_Boer_War.jpg)[Yonge Street](/wiki/Yonge_Street) in 1900

Long before the [Royal Military College of Canada](/wiki/Royal_Military_College_of_Canada) was established in 1876, there were proposals for military colleges in Canada. Staffed by British Regulars, adult male students underwent a three-month long military course at the School of Military Instruction in Toronto. Established by Militia General Order in 1864, the school enabled Officers of Militia or Candidates for Commission or promotion in the Militia to learn Military duties, drill and discipline, to command a Company at Battalion Drill, to Drill a Company at Company Drill, the internal economy of a Company and the duties of a Company's Officer.[[46]](#cite_note-46) The school was retained at Confederation, in 1867. In 1868, Schools of [Cavalry](/wiki/Cavalry) and [Artillery](/wiki/Artillery) Instruction were formed in Toronto.[[47]](#cite_note-47) In the 19th century, an extensive sewage system was built, and streets became illuminated with [gas lighting](/wiki/Gas_lighting) as a regular service. Long-distance railway lines were constructed, including a route completed in 1854 linking Toronto with the Upper Great Lakes. The [Grand Trunk Railway](/wiki/Grand_Trunk_Railway) and the [Northern Railway of Canada](/wiki/Northern_Railway_of_Canada) joined in the building of the first [Union Station](/wiki/Toronto_Union_Station_(1858)) in downtown. The advent of the railway dramatically increased the numbers of immigrants arriving, commerce and industry, as had the Lake Ontario steamers and schooners entering port before, which enabled Toronto to become a major gateway linking the world to the interior of the North American continent. [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:1TorontoFire1904.jpg) [Great Toronto Fire of 1904](/wiki/Great_Fire_of_Toronto_(1904))

Toronto became the largest alcohol distillation (in particular, spirits) centre in North America; the [Gooderham and Worts](/wiki/Gooderham_and_Worts) Distillery operations became the world's largest whiskey factory by the 1860s. A preserved section of this once dominant local industry remains in the [Distillery District](/wiki/Distillery_District). The harbour allowed for sure access to grain and sugar imports used in processing. Expanding port and rail facilities brought in northern timber for export and imported Pennsylvania coal. Industry dominated the waterfront for the next 100 years.

Horse-drawn [streetcars](/wiki/Streetcars) gave way to electric streetcars in 1891, when the city granted the operation of the transit franchise to the [Toronto Railway Company](/wiki/Toronto_Railway). The public transit system passed into public ownership in 1921 as the [Toronto Transportation Commission](/wiki/Toronto_Transportation_Commission), later renamed the [Toronto Transit Commission](/wiki/Toronto_Transit_Commission). The system now has the third-highest ridership of any city public transportation system in North America.[[48]](#cite_note-48) The [Great Toronto Fire of 1904](/wiki/Great_Fire_of_Toronto_(1904)) destroyed a large section of downtown Toronto, but the city was quickly rebuilt. The fire caused more than $10 million in damage, and resulted in more stringent fire safety laws and expansion of the city's fire department.

The city received new immigrant groups beginning in the late 19th century into the early 20th century, particularly Germans, French, Italians, and Jews from various parts of Eastern Europe. They were soon followed by Chinese, Russians, Poles, and immigrants from other Eastern European nations. As the Irish before them, many of these new migrants lived in overcrowded shanty-type slums, such as "[the Ward](/wiki/The_Ward,_Toronto)" which was centred on [Bay Street](/wiki/Bay_Street), now the heart of the country's finances. Despite its fast-paced growth, by the 1920s, Toronto's population and economic importance in Canada remained second to the much longer established [Montreal](/wiki/Montreal). However, by 1934, the [Toronto Stock Exchange](/wiki/Toronto_Stock_Exchange) had become the largest in the country.

### Since 1945[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|left|V-E Day celebrations on Bay Street, May 1945](/wiki/File:VE_Day_celebrations_on_Bay_Street_1945.jpg) Following the Second World War, refugees from war-torn Europe and Chinese job-seekers arrived, as well as construction labourers, particularly from Italy and Portugal. Following the elimination of racially based immigration policies by the late 1960s, immigration began from all parts of the world. Toronto's population grew to more than one million in 1951 when large-scale suburbanization began, and doubled to two million by 1971. By the 1980s, Toronto had surpassed Montreal as Canada's most populous city and the chief economic hub. During this time, in part owing to the political uncertainty raised by the resurgence of the [Quebec sovereignty movement](/wiki/Quebec_sovereignty_movement), many national and multinational corporations moved their head offices from Montreal to Toronto and [Western Canadian](/wiki/Western_Canada) cities.[[49]](#cite_note-49) In 1954, the City of Toronto and 12 surrounding municipalities were federated into a [regional government](/wiki/Regional_municipality) known as [Metropolitan Toronto](/wiki/Metropolitan_Toronto).[[50]](#cite_note-50) The postwar boom had resulted in rapid suburban development, and it was believed that a coordinated land use strategy and shared services would provide greater efficiency for the region. The metropolitan government began to manage services that crossed municipal boundaries, including highways, police services, water and [public transit](/wiki/Public_transport). In that year, a half-century after the Great Fire of 1904, disaster struck the city again when [Hurricane Hazel](/wiki/Hurricane_Hazel) brought intense winds and flash flooding. In the Toronto area, 81 people were killed, nearly 1,900 families were left homeless, and the hurricane caused more than $25 million in damage.<ref name=hurricane>[SOS! Canadian Disasters](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/sos/002028-3200-e.html) Library and Archives Canada (2006). Retrieved December 19, 2008.</ref>

In 1967, the seven smallest municipalities of Metropolitan Toronto were merged into their larger neighbours, resulting in a six-municipality configuration that included the [old City of Toronto](/wiki/Old_Toronto) and the surrounding municipalities of [East York](/wiki/East_York), [Etobicoke](/wiki/Etobicoke), [North York](/wiki/North_York), [Scarborough](/wiki/Scarborough,_Toronto), and [York](/wiki/York,_Toronto). In 1998, the provincial government of Conservative Mike Harris dissolved the metropolitan government despite vigorous opposition from the component municipalities and overwhelming rejection in a municipal plebiscite. All six municipalities were [amalgamated](/wiki/Merger_(politics)) into a single municipality, creating the current City of Toronto, successor of the old City of Toronto. North York mayor [Mel Lastman](/wiki/Mel_Lastman) became the first "megacity" mayor and the 62nd [Mayor of Toronto](/wiki/List_of_mayors_of_Toronto). [John Tory](/wiki/John_Tory) is the current mayor.

On March 6, 2009, the city celebrated its 175th anniversary of its inception as the City of Toronto in 1834. Toronto hosted the [4th G-20 summit](/wiki/2010_G-20_Toronto_summit) during June 26–27, 2010, for which the largest security operation in Canadian history and the biggest mass arrest (more than a thousand people) took place amidst large-scale [protests](/wiki/2010_G-20_Toronto_summit_protests).

On July 8, 2013, severe flash flooding hit Toronto after an afternoon of slow moving, intense thunderstorms. Toronto Hydro estimated that 450,000 people were without power after the storm and Toronto Pearson International Airport reported that [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of rain had fallen over 5 hours, more than during Hurricane Hazel.<ref name=Thunderstorm\_2013>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Within six months, December 20, 2013, Toronto was brought to a halt by the worst [ice storm](/wiki/December_2013_North_American_storm_complex) in the city's history rivalling the severity caused by the [1998 Ice Storm](/wiki/North_American_Ice_Storm_of_1998). Toronto went on to host [WorldPride](/wiki/WorldPride) in June 2014 and the [Pan American Games](/wiki/Pan_American_Games) in [2015](/wiki/2015_Pan_American_Games).

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|A simulated-colour image of Toronto taken by the NASA](/wiki/File:Toronto_Landsat.jpg) [Landsat 7](/wiki/Landsat_7) satellite in 2004. Toronto covers an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),<ref name=population>[Population statistics and land area](http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/standard/popdwell/Table-CSD-P.cfm?PR=35&T=2&SR=1&S=3&O=D), Statistics Canada (2001). Retrieved December 5, 2006.</ref> with a maximum north-south distance of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and a maximum east-west distance of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). It has a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long [waterfront](/wiki/Toronto_waterfront) shoreline, on the northwestern shore of Lake Ontario. The [Toronto Islands](/wiki/Toronto_Islands) and [Port Lands](/wiki/Port_Lands) extend out into the lake, allowing for a somewhat sheltered [Toronto Harbour](/wiki/Toronto_Harbour) south of the downtown core.[[51]](#cite_note-51) The city's borders are formed by [Lake Ontario](/wiki/Lake_Ontario) to the south, [Etobicoke Creek](/wiki/Etobicoke_Creek) and [Highway 427](/wiki/Ontario_Highway_427) to the west, [Steeles Avenue](/wiki/Steeles_Avenue) to the north and the [Rouge River](/wiki/Rouge_River_(Ontario)) and the Scarborough-Pickering Townline to the east.

### Topography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

The city is mostly flat or gentle hills and the land gently slopes upward away from the lake. The flat land is interrupted by numerous [ravines](/wiki/Toronto_ravine_system) cut by numerous creeks and the valleys of the three rivers in Toronto: the [Humber River](/wiki/Humber_River_(Ontario)) in the west end and the [Don River](/wiki/Don_River_(Ontario)) east of downtown at opposite ends of the [Toronto Harbour](/wiki/Toronto_Harbour), and the Rouge River at the city's eastern limits. Most of the ravines and valley lands in Toronto today are park lands, and recreational trails are laid out along the ravines and valleys. The original town was laid out in a [grid plan](/wiki/Grid_plan) on the flat plain north of the harbour, and this plan was extended outwards as the city grew. The width and depth of several of the ravines and valleys are such that several grid streets such as [Finch Avenue](/wiki/Finch_Avenue), [Leslie Street](/wiki/Leslie_Street), [Lawrence Avenue](/wiki/Lawrence_Avenue), and [St. Clair Avenue](/wiki/St._Clair_Avenue), terminate on one side of a ravine or valley and continue on the other side. Toronto has many bridges spanning the ravines. Large bridges such as the [Prince Edward Viaduct](/wiki/Prince_Edward_Viaduct) were built to span above wide river valleys.

Despite its deep ravines, Toronto is not remarkably hilly, but does increase in elevation steadily away from the lake. Elevation differences range from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level) at the Lake Ontario shore to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) ASL near the [York University](/wiki/York_University) grounds in the city's north end at the intersection of [Keele Street](/wiki/Keele_Street) and [Steeles Avenue](/wiki/Steeles_Avenue).[[52]](#cite_note-52) There are occasional hilly areas; in particular, [midtown Toronto](/wiki/Midtown,_Toronto) has a number of rolling hills. Lake Ontario remains occasionally visible from the peaks of these ridges as far north as [Eglinton Avenue](/wiki/Eglinton_Avenue), [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) inland.

The other major geographical feature of Toronto are the escarpments. During the [last ice age](/wiki/Last_glacial_period), the lower part of Toronto was beneath [Glacial Lake Iroquois](/wiki/Glacial_Lake_Iroquois). Today, a series of [escarpments](/wiki/Escarpment) mark the lake's former boundary, known as the "Iroquois Shoreline". The escarpments are most prominent from [Victoria Park Avenue](/wiki/Victoria_Park_Avenue) to the mouth of [Highland Creek](/wiki/Highland_Creek_(Toronto)), where they form the [Scarborough Bluffs](/wiki/Scarborough_Bluffs). Other observable sections include the area near St. Clair Avenue West between [Bathurst Street](/wiki/Bathurst_Street_(Toronto)) and the Don River, and north of [Davenport Road](/wiki/Davenport_Road) from Caledonia to [Spadina Road](/wiki/Spadina_Avenue); the [Casa Loma](/wiki/Casa_Loma) grounds sit above this escarpment.

The geography of the lake shore is much changed since the first settlement of Toronto. Much of the land on the north shore of the harbour is landfill, filled in during the late 19th century. Until then, the lakefront docks (then known as wharves) were set back farther inland than today. Much of the adjacent [Port Lands](/wiki/Port_Lands) on the east side of the harbour was a [wetland](/wiki/Wetland) filled in early in the 20th century. The shoreline from the harbour west to the Humber has been extended into the lake. Further west, landfill has created extensions of land such as Humber Bay Park.

The Toronto Islands were a natural peninsula until a storm in 1858 severed their connection to the mainland, creating a channel to the harbour. The peninsula was formed by [longshore drift](/wiki/Longshore_drift) taking the sediments deposited along the Scarborough Bluffs shore and transporting them to the Islands area. The other source of sediment for the Port Lands wetland and the peninsula was the deposition of the Don River, which carved a wide valley through the sedimentary land of Toronto and deposited it in the harbour, which is quite shallow. The harbour and the channel of the Don River have been dredged numerous times for shipping. The lower section of the Don River was straightened and channelled in the 19th century. The former mouth drained into a wetland; today the Don drains into the harbour through a concrete waterway, the Keating Channel.

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

The city of Toronto has a [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification): Dfa), with warm, humid summers and cold winters.[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54)<ref name=Peel>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> As a result of ongoing [climate change](/wiki/Climate_change), studies sanctioned by the [City of Toronto](/wiki/City_of_Toronto) predict the climate to shift to the [humid subtropical](/wiki/Humid_subtropical_climate) ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification): Cfa) category sometime between the years 2020-2030.[[55]](#cite_note-55) The city experiences four distinct seasons, with considerable variance in length.<ref name=climatedriverv1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Some parts of the north & east of the city such as [Scarborough](/wiki/Scarborough,_Toronto), have a climate classified as [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification): Dfb). As a result of the rapid passage of weather systems (such as high- and low-pressure systems), the weather is variable from day to day in all seasons.<ref name=climatedriverv1/> Owing to urbanization and its proximity to water, Toronto has a fairly low diurnal temperature range (day-night temperature difference). The denser urban scape makes for warmer nights year around; the average nighttime temperature is about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) warmer in the city than in rural areas in all months.<ref name=climatedriverv3>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> However, it can be noticeably cooler on many spring and early summer afternoons under the influence of a lake breeze since Lake Ontario is cool, relative to the air during these seasons.<ref name=climatedriverv3/> These lake breezes mostly occur in summer, bringing relief to hot days.<ref name=climatedriverv3/> Other low-scale maritime effects on the climate include [lake-effect snow](/wiki/Lake-effect_snow), fog and delaying of spring- and fall-like conditions, known as [seasonal lag](/wiki/Seasonal_lag).<ref name=climatedriverv3/>

Winters are cold with frequent snow.<ref name=climate>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> During the winter months, temperatures are usually below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name=climate/> Toronto winters sometimes feature cold snaps when maximum temperatures remain below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), often made to feel colder by [wind chill](/wiki/Wind_chill). Occasionally, they can drop below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name=climate/> Snowstorms, sometimes mixed with ice and rain, can disrupt work and travel schedules, while accumulating snow can fall anytime from November until mid-April. However, mild stretches also occur in most winters, melting accumulated snow. The summer months are characterized by very warm temperatures.<ref name=climate/> Daytime temperatures are usually above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and often rise above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name=climate/> However, they can occasionally surpass [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) accompanied by high humidity. Spring and autumn are transitional seasons with generally mild or cool temperatures with alternating dry and wet periods.<ref name=climatedriverv3/> Daytime temperatures average around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during these seasons.<ref name=climate/>

Precipitation is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, but summer is usually the wettest season, the bulk falling during thunderstorms. There can be periods of dry weather, but droughtlike conditions are rare.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The average yearly precipitation is about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), with an average annual snowfall of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name=annex/> Toronto experiences an average of 2,066 sunshine hours, or 45% of daylight hours, varying between a low of 28% in December to 60% in July.[[56]](#cite_note-56) According to the classification applied by [Natural Resources Canada](/wiki/Natural_Resources_Canada), Toronto is located in plant hardiness zone 7a.[[57]](#cite_note-57) [Template:Toronto weatherbox](/wiki/Template:Toronto_weatherbox)

[Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

## Cityscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|upright|Allen Lambert Galleria in](/wiki/File:Brookfield_Place_(Toronto._Canadà).JPG) [Brookfield Place](/wiki/Brookfield_Place_(Toronto)) Lawrence Richards, a member of the Faculty of Architecture at the [University of Toronto](/wiki/University_of_Toronto), has said "Toronto is a new, brash, rag-tag place—a big mix of periods and styles."[[58]](#cite_note-58) Toronto buildings vary in design and age with many structures dating back to the mid-19th-century, while other prominent buildings were just newly built in the first decade of the 21st century. [Bay-and-gable](/wiki/Bay-and-gable) houses, mainly found in Old Toronto, are a distinct architectural feature of the city. Defining the Toronto skyline is the [CN Tower](/wiki/CN_Tower), a telecommunications and tourism hub. Completed in 1976 at a height of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), it was the world's tallest[[59]](#cite_note-59) freestanding structure until 2007 when it was surpassed by [Burj Khalifa](/wiki/Burj_Khalifa).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Toronto is a city of high-rises, having 1,800 buildings over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[60]](#cite_note-60) Through the 1960s and 1970s, significant pieces of Toronto's architectural heritage were demolished to make way for redevelopment or, simply, parking. In contrast, since the 2000s, Toronto has experienced a period of architectural revival, with several buildings by world-renowned architects having opened during the late 2000s. Daniel Libeskind's [Royal Ontario Museum](/wiki/Royal_Ontario_Museum) addition, Frank Gehry's remake of the [Art Gallery of Ontario](/wiki/Art_Gallery_of_Ontario), and Will Alsop's distinctive [Ontario College of Art & Design](/wiki/OCAD_University) expansion are among the city's new showpieces.[[61]](#cite_note-61) The historic [Distillery District](/wiki/Distillery_District), located on the eastern edge of downtown has been redeveloped into a pedestrian-oriented arts, culture and entertainment neighbourhood.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Neighbourhoods[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|A group of "](/wiki/File:Annex_houses.JPG)[The Annex](/wiki/The_Annex)" style houses, a style of house that was popular in Toronto in the late nineteenth century. The many residential communities of Toronto express a character distinct from that of the skyscrapers in the commercial core. [Victorian](/wiki/Victorian_era) and [Edwardian-era](/wiki/Edwardian_era) residential buildings can be found in enclaves such as [Rosedale](/wiki/Rosedale,_Toronto), [Cabbagetown](/wiki/Cabbagetown,_Toronto), [The Annex](/wiki/The_Annex), and [Yorkville](/wiki/Yorkville,_Toronto). [Wychwood Park](/wiki/Wychwood_Park) is historically significant for the architecture of its homes, and for being one of Toronto's earliest planned communities. The Wychwood Park neighbourhood was designated as an Ontario Heritage Conservation district in 1985. The [Casa Loma](/wiki/Casa_Loma_(neighbourhood)) neighbourhood is named after [Casa Loma](/wiki/Casa_Loma), a storybook castle built in 1911 complete with gardens, turrets, stables, an elevator, secret passages, and a bowling alley. [Spadina House](/wiki/Spadina_House) is a 19th-century [manor](/wiki/Manor_house) that is now a museum.

The City of Toronto encompasses a geographical area formerly administered by six separate municipalities. These municipalities have each developed a distinct history and identity over the years, and their names remain in common use among Torontonians. Throughout the city there exist hundreds of small neighbourhoods and some larger neighbourhoods covering a few square kilometres. Former municipalities include [East York](/wiki/East_York), [Etobicoke](/wiki/Etobicoke), [North York](/wiki/North_York), [Old Toronto](/wiki/Old_Toronto), [Scarborough](/wiki/Scarborough,_Toronto), and [York](/wiki/York,_Toronto).

#### Old Toronto[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|300px|Left|Map of Toronto with major traffic routes. Also shown are the boundaries of](/wiki/File:Toronto_map.png) [six former municipalities](/wiki/Metropolitan_Toronto), which form the current City of Toronto. The [Old City of Toronto](/wiki/Old_Toronto) covers the area generally known as [downtown](/wiki/Downtown_Toronto), but also older neighbourhoods to the east, west, and north of downtown. It includes the historic core of Toronto and remains the most densely populated part of the city. The [Financial District](/wiki/Financial_District,_Toronto) contains the [First Canadian Place](/wiki/First_Canadian_Place), [Toronto-Dominion Centre](/wiki/Toronto-Dominion_Centre), [Scotia Plaza](/wiki/Scotia_Plaza), [Royal Bank Plaza](/wiki/Royal_Bank_Plaza), [Commerce Court](/wiki/Commerce_Court) and [Brookfield Place](/wiki/Brookfield_Place_(Toronto)). This area includes, among others, the neighbourhoods of [St. James Town](/wiki/St._James_Town), [Garden District](/wiki/Garden_District,_Toronto), [St. Lawrence](/wiki/St._Lawrence,_Toronto), [Corktown](/wiki/Corktown,_Toronto), and [Church and Wellesley](/wiki/Church_and_Wellesley). From that point, the Toronto skyline extends northward along Yonge Street.

Old Toronto is also home to many historically wealthy residential enclaves, such as [Yorkville](/wiki/Yorkville,_Toronto), [Rosedale](/wiki/Rosedale,_Toronto), [The Annex](/wiki/The_Annex), [Forest Hill](/wiki/Forest_Hill,_Toronto), [Lawrence Park](/wiki/Lawrence_Park,_Toronto), [Lytton Park](/wiki/Lytton_Park), [Deer Park](/wiki/Deer_Park,_Toronto), [Moore Park](/wiki/Moore_Park,_Toronto), and [Casa Loma](/wiki/Casa_Loma_(neighbourhood)), most stretching away from downtown to the north. East and west of Downtown, neighbourhoods such as [Kensington Market](/wiki/Kensington_Market), [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Toronto), [Leslieville](/wiki/Leslieville), [Cabbagetown](/wiki/Cabbagetown,_Toronto) and [Riverdale](/wiki/Riverdale,_Toronto) are home to bustling commercial and cultural areas as well as communities of artists with studio lofts, with many middle- and upper-class professionals. Other neighbourhoods in the central city retain an ethnic identity, including two smaller Chinatowns, the [Greektown](/wiki/Greektown,_Toronto) area, [Little Italy](/wiki/Little_Italy,_Toronto), [Portugal Village](/wiki/Trinity–Bellwoods), and [Little India](/wiki/Gerrard_Street_(Toronto)), along with others.

#### Suburbs[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

The inner suburbs are contained within the former municipalities of [York](/wiki/York,_Toronto) and [East York](/wiki/East_York). These are mature and traditionally working-class areas, primarily consisting of post–World War I small, single-family homes and small apartment blocks. Neighbourhoods such as [Crescent Town](/wiki/Crescent_Town), [Thorncliffe Park](/wiki/Thorncliffe_Park), [Weston](/wiki/Weston,_Toronto), and [Oakwood–Vaughan](/wiki/Oakwood–Vaughan) mainly consist of high-rise apartments, which are home to many new immigrant families. During the 2000s, many neighbourhoods have become ethnically diverse and have undergone [gentrification](/wiki/Gentrification), as a result of increasing population and a housing boom during the late 1990s and first two decades of the 21st century. The first neighbourhoods affected were [Leaside](/wiki/Leaside) and [North Toronto](/wiki/North_Toronto), gradually progressing into the western neighbourhoods in York. Some of the area's housing is in the process of being replaced or remodelled.

The outer suburbs comprising the former municipalities of [Etobicoke](/wiki/Etobicoke) (west), [Scarborough](/wiki/Scarborough,_Toronto) (east) and [North York](/wiki/North_York) (north) largely retain the [grid plan](/wiki/Grid_plan) laid before post-war development. Sections were long established and quickly growing towns before the suburban housing boom began and the emergence of metropolitan government, existing towns or villages such as [Mimico](/wiki/Mimico), [Islington](/wiki/Islington,_Ontario) and [New Toronto](/wiki/New_Toronto) in Etobicoke; [Willowdale](/wiki/Willowdale,_Toronto), [Newtonbrook](/wiki/Newtonbrook) and [Downsview](/wiki/Downsview) in North York; [Agincourt](/wiki/Agincourt,_Toronto), [Wexford](/wiki/Wexford,_Toronto) and [West Hill](/wiki/West_Hill,_Toronto) in Scarborough where suburban development boomed around or between these and other towns beginning in the late 1940s. Upscale neighbourhoods were built such as the [Bridle Path](/wiki/Bridle_Path,_Toronto) in North York, the area surrounding the Scarborough Bluffs in [Guildwood](/wiki/Guildwood), and most of central Etobicoke, such as [Humber Valley Village](/wiki/Humber_Valley_Village), and [The Kingsway](/wiki/The_Kingsway). One of largest and earliest "planned communities" was [Don Mills](/wiki/Don_Mills), parts of which were first built in the 1950s.[[62]](#cite_note-62) Phased development mixing single-detached housing with higher-density apartment blocks became more popular as a suburban model of development. Over the late 20th century and early 21st century, [North York City Centre](/wiki/North_York_Centre), [Etobicoke City Centre](/wiki/Islington-City_Centre_West) and [Scarborough City Centre](/wiki/Scarborough_City_Centre) have emerged as secondary business districts outside Downtown Toronto. High-rise development in these areas has given the former municipalities distinguishable skylines of their own with high-density transit corridors serving them.

### Industrial[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Distillery_District,_Toronto,_Canada,_2006.jpg) [Distillery District](/wiki/Distillery_District) In the earlier industrial era of Toronto, industry became concentrated along the [Toronto Harbour](/wiki/Toronto_Harbour) and lower [Don River](/wiki/Don_River_(Ontario)) mouth.

The [Distillery District](/wiki/Distillery_District) contains the largest and best-preserved collection of [Victorian](/wiki/Victorian_architecture) industrial architecture in North America. Once an alcohol processing centre, related structures along the Harbour include the Canada Malting Co. grain processing towers and the [Redpath Sugar Refinery](/wiki/Redpath_Sugar_Refinery). Although production of spirits has declined over the decades, Toronto still has a growing [microbrewery](/wiki/Microbrewery) industry. The District is a national heritage site; it was listed by [*National Geographic*](/wiki/National_Geographic_(magazine)) magazine as a "top pick" in Canada for travellers. Similar areas that still retain their post-industrial character, but are now largely residential are the [Fashion District](/wiki/Fashion_District,_Toronto), [Corktown](/wiki/Corktown,_Toronto), and parts of [South Riverdale](/wiki/Riverdale,_Toronto) and [Leslieville](/wiki/Leslieville). Toronto still has some active older industrial areas, such as [Brockton Village](/wiki/Brockton_Village), [Mimico](/wiki/Mimico) and [New Toronto](/wiki/New_Toronto). In the west end of Old Toronto and York, the [Weston](/wiki/Weston,_Toronto)/[Mount Dennis](/wiki/Mount_Dennis) and [The Junction](/wiki/The_Junction) areas still contain factories, meat-packing facilities and railyards close to medium-density residential.

Beginning in the late 19th century as Toronto sprawled out, industrial areas were set up on the outskirts. Over time, pockets of industrial land mostly followed rail lines and later highway corridors as the city grew outwards. This trend continues to this day, the largest factories and distribution warehouses have mostly moved to the suburban environs of [Peel](/wiki/Regional_Municipality_of_Peel) and [York](/wiki/Regional_Municipality_of_York) Regions; but also within the current city: Etobicoke (concentrated around [Pearson Airport](/wiki/Toronto_Pearson_International_Airport)), North York, and Scarborough. Many of Toronto's [former industrial sites](/wiki/Brownfield_land) close to (or in) Downtown have been redeveloped including parts of the [Toronto waterfront](/wiki/Toronto_waterfront) and [Liberty Village](/wiki/Liberty_Village), large-scale development is underway in the [West Don Lands](/wiki/West_Don_Lands).

The "brownfield" industrial area of the [Port Lands](/wiki/Port_Lands), on the east side of the harbour, is one area planned for redevelopment. Formerly a marsh that was filled in to create industrial space, it was never intensely developed, its land unsuitable for large-scale development, because of flooding and unstable soil. It remains largely undeveloped, apart from a [power plant](/wiki/Portlands_Energy_Centre), some port facilities, a large movie studio and low-density industrial facilities. The [Waterfront Toronto](/wiki/Waterfront_Toronto) agency has developed plans for a naturalized mouth to the Don River and to create a flood barrier around the Don, making more of the land suitable for higher-value residential and commercial development.

### Public spaces[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|High Park in Toronto, with](/wiki/File:Toronto_Yellow_Circles_2010.jpg) [Menashe Kadishman's](/wiki/Menashe_Kadishman) *Yellow Circles* (1967) Toronto has a diverse array of public spaces, from city squares to public parks overlooking [ravines](/wiki/Toronto_ravine_system). [Nathan Phillips Square](/wiki/Nathan_Phillips_Square) is the city's main square in downtown, and forms the entrance to [City Hall](/wiki/Toronto_City_Hall). [Yonge-Dundas Square](/wiki/Yonge-Dundas_Square), near City Hall, has also gained attention in recent years as one of the busiest gathering spots in the city. Other squares include [Harbourfront Square](/wiki/Harbourfront_Centre), on the [Toronto waterfront](/wiki/Toronto_waterfront), and the civic squares at the former city halls of the defunct Metropolitan Toronto, most notably [Mel Lastman Square](/wiki/Mel_Lastman_Square) in North York. The [Toronto Public Space Committee](/wiki/Toronto_Public_Space_Committee) is an advocacy group concerned with the city's public spaces. In recent years, Nathan Phillips Square has been refurbished with new facilities, and the central waterfront along Queen's Quay West has recently been updated with a new street architecture and a new square next to Harbourfront Centre.

There are many large downtown parks, which include [Allan Gardens](/wiki/Allan_Gardens), [Christie Pits](/wiki/Christie_Pits), [Grange Park](/wiki/Grange_Park_(Toronto)), [Little Norway Park](/wiki/Little_Norway_Park), [Moss Park](/wiki/Moss_Park), [Queen's Park](/wiki/Queen's_Park_(Toronto)), [Riverdale Park](/wiki/Riverdale_Park_(Toronto)) and [Trinity Bellwoods Park](/wiki/Trinity_Bellwoods_Park). An almost hidden park is the compact [Cloud Gardens](/wiki/Cloud_Gardens),[[63]](#cite_note-63) which has both open areas and a glassed-in greenhouse, near Queen and Yonge. South of downtown are two large parks on the waterfront: Tommy Thompson Park on the [Leslie Street Spit](/wiki/Leslie_Street_Spit), which has a nature preserve, is open on weekends; and the [Toronto Islands](/wiki/Toronto_Islands), accessible from downtown by ferry. Large parks in the outer areas include [High Park](/wiki/High_Park), [Humber Bay Park](/wiki/Humber_Bay_Park), [Centennial Park](/wiki/Centennial_Park_(Toronto)), [Downsview Park](/wiki/Downsview_Park), [Guildwood Park](/wiki/Guild_Inn), [Morningside Park](/wiki/Morningside_Park_(Toronto)) and [Rouge Park](/wiki/Rouge_Park). Toronto also operates several public golf courses. Most ravine lands and river bank floodplains in Toronto are public parklands. After [Hurricane Hazel](/wiki/Hurricane_Hazel) in 1954, construction of buildings on floodplains was outlawed, and private lands bought for conservation. In 1999, Downsview Park, a former military base in North York, initiated an international design competition to realize its vision of creating Canada's first national [urban park](/wiki/Urban_park). The winner, "Tree City", was announced in May 2000. Approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), or 12.5% of Toronto's land base is maintained parkland.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Toronto's largest park is Morningside Park, which is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in size.[[64]](#cite_note-64) In the winter, Nathan Phillips Square, Harbourfront Centre, and Mel Lastman Square feature popular rinks for public ice-skating. Etobicoke's Colonel Sam Smith Trail opened in 2011 and is Toronto's first skating trail. Centennial Park and [Earl Bales Park](/wiki/North_York_Ski_Centre) offer outdoor skiing and snowboarding slopes with a [chairlift](/wiki/Chairlift), rental facilities, and lessons. Several parks have marked cross-country skiing trails.

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|Toronto's](/wiki/File:Toronto_Pride_Parade_2007.jpg) [gay pride](/wiki/Pride_Week_(Toronto)) celebration is one of the world's largest [thumb|180px|The](/wiki/File:Royal_Alex_Theatre,_Toronto.jpg) [Royal Alexandra Theatre](/wiki/Royal_Alexandra_Theatre) Toronto theatre and [performing arts](/wiki/Performing_arts) scene has more than fifty ballet and dance companies, six opera companies, two symphony orchestras and a host of theatres. The city is home to the [National Ballet of Canada](/wiki/National_Ballet_of_Canada), the [Canadian Opera Company](/wiki/Canadian_Opera_Company), the [Toronto Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Toronto_Symphony_Orchestra), the [Canadian Electronic Ensemble](/wiki/Canadian_Electronic_Ensemble), and the [Canadian Stage Company](/wiki/Canadian_Stage_Company). Notable performance venues include the [Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts](/wiki/Four_Seasons_Centre), [Roy Thomson Hall](/wiki/Roy_Thomson_Hall), the [Princess of Wales Theatre](/wiki/Princess_of_Wales_Theatre), the [Royal Alexandra Theatre](/wiki/Royal_Alexandra_Theatre), [Massey Hall](/wiki/Massey_Hall), the [Toronto Centre for the Arts](/wiki/Toronto_Centre_for_the_Arts), the [Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres](/wiki/Elgin_and_Winter_Garden_Theatres) and the [Sony Centre for the Performing Arts](/wiki/Sony_Centre_for_the_Performing_Arts) (originally the "O'Keefe Centre" and formerly the "Hummingbird Centre").

[Ontario Place](/wiki/Ontario_Place) features the world's first permanent [IMAX](/wiki/IMAX) movie theatre, the [Cinesphere](/wiki/Cinesphere),[[65]](#cite_note-65) as well as the [Molson Amphitheatre](/wiki/Molson_Amphitheatre), an open-air venue for music concerts. In spring 2012, Ontario Place closed after a decrease in attendance over the years. Although the Molson Amphitheatre and harbour still operate, the park and Cinesphere are no longer in use.

Each summer, the Canadian Stage Company presents an outdoor [Shakespeare](/wiki/William_Shakespeare) production in Toronto's [High Park](/wiki/High_Park) called "Dream in High Park". [Canada's Walk of Fame](/wiki/Canada's_Walk_of_Fame) acknowledges the achievements of successful Canadians, with a series of stars on designated blocks of sidewalks along King Street and [Simcoe Street](/wiki/Simcoe_Street,_Toronto).

The production of domestic and foreign film and television is a major local industry. Toronto [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) ranks as the third largest production centre for film and television after [Los Angeles](/wiki/Los_Angeles) and [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City),[[66]](#cite_note-66) sharing the nickname "[Hollywood North](/wiki/Hollywood_North)" with Vancouver.[[67]](#cite_note-67)[[68]](#cite_note-68)[[69]](#cite_note-69) The [Toronto International Film Festival](/wiki/Toronto_International_Film_Festival) is an annual event celebrating the international film industry. Another prestigious film festival is the [Toronto Student Film Festival](/wiki/Toronto_Student_Film_Festival), that screens the works of students ages 12–18 from many different countries across the globe.

Toronto's [Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival](/wiki/Scotiabank_Caribbean_Carnival_Toronto) (also known as Caribana) takes place from mid-July to early August of every summer.<ref name=Caribana>[Toronto Caribbean Carnival (Caribana) Festival 2006](http://www.caribana.com/), WORD Magazine (2006). Retrieved December 11, 2006.</ref> Primarily based on the [Trinidad and Tobago Carnival](/wiki/Trinidad_and_Tobago_Carnival), the first Caribana took place in 1967 when the city's Caribbean community celebrated [Canada's Centennial](/wiki/Canadian_Centennial). More than forty years later, it has grown to attract one million people to Toronto's [Lake Shore Boulevard](/wiki/Lake_Shore_Boulevard) annually. Tourism for the festival is in the hundred thousands, and each year, the event generates over $400 million in revenue into Ontario's economy.[[70]](#cite_note-70) One of the largest events in the city, [Pride Week](/wiki/Pride_Week_(Toronto)) takes place in late June, and is one of the largest [LGBT](/wiki/LGBT) festivals in the world.

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Crystal.view.from.west.JPG)[Royal Ontario Museum](/wiki/Royal_Ontario_Museum) is one of Canada's leading museums[[71]](#cite_note-71) [right|thumb|upright|The](/wiki/File:Toronto_-_ON_-_CN_Tower_bei_Nacht2.jpg) [CN Tower](/wiki/CN_Tower) is a major tourist attraction in Toronto.

The [Royal Ontario Museum](/wiki/Royal_Ontario_Museum) (ROM) is a museum of world culture and [natural history](/wiki/Natural_history). The [Toronto Zoo](/wiki/Toronto_Zoo),[[72]](#cite_note-72)[[73]](#cite_note-73) is home to over 5,000 animals representing over 460 distinct species. The [Art Gallery of Ontario](/wiki/Art_Gallery_of_Ontario) contains a large collection of Canadian, European, African and [contemporary artwork](/wiki/Contemporary_art), and also plays host to exhibits from museums and galleries all over the world. The [Gardiner Museum](/wiki/Gardiner_Museum) of ceramic art is the only museum in Canada entirely devoted to ceramics, and the Museum's collection contains more than 2,900 ceramic works from Asia, the Americas, and Europe. The city also hosts the [Ontario Science Centre](/wiki/Ontario_Science_Centre), the [Bata Shoe Museum](/wiki/Bata_Shoe_Museum), and [Textile Museum of Canada](/wiki/Textile_Museum_of_Canada). Other prominent art galleries and museums include the [Design Exchange](/wiki/Design_Exchange), the [Museum of Inuit Art](/wiki/Museum_of_Inuit_Art), the [TIFF Bell Lightbox](/wiki/TIFF_Bell_Lightbox), the [Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art](/wiki/Museum_of_Contemporary_Canadian_Art), the [Institute for Contemporary Culture](/wiki/Institute_for_Contemporary_Culture), the [Toronto Sculpture Garden](/wiki/Toronto_Sculpture_Garden), the [CBC Museum](/wiki/CBC_Museum), the [Redpath Sugar Museum](/wiki/Redpath_Sugar_Museum), the [University of Toronto Art Centre](/wiki/University_College,_Toronto), [Hart House](/wiki/Hart_House_(University_of_Toronto)), the TD Gallery of Inuit Art and the [Aga Khan Museum](/wiki/Aga_Khan_Museum). The city also runs its own museums, which include the [Spadina House](/wiki/Spadina_House).

The [Don Valley Brick Works](/wiki/Don_Valley_Brick_Works) is a former industrial site that opened in 1889, and was partly restored as a park and heritage site in 1996, with further restoration and reuse being completed in stages since then. The [Canadian National Exhibition](/wiki/Canadian_National_Exhibition) ("The Ex") is held annually at [Exhibition Place](/wiki/Exhibition_Place), and it is the oldest annual fair in the world. The Ex has an average attendance of 1.25 million.[[74]](#cite_note-74) City shopping areas include the [Yorkville](/wiki/Yorkville,_Toronto) neighbourhood, [Queen West](/wiki/Queen_Street_West), [Harbourfront](/wiki/Harbourfront), the [Entertainment District](/wiki/Toronto_Entertainment_District), the [Financial District](/wiki/Financial_District,_Toronto), and the [St. Lawrence](/wiki/St._Lawrence,_Toronto) Market neighbourhood. The [Eaton Centre](/wiki/Toronto_Eaton_Centre) is Toronto's most popular tourist attraction with over 52 million visitors annually.[[75]](#cite_note-75) [Greektown](/wiki/Greektown,_Toronto) on the Danforth is home to the annual "[Taste of the Danforth](/wiki/Taste_of_the_Danforth)" festival which attracts over one million people in 2½ days.[[76]](#cite_note-76) Toronto is also home to [Casa Loma](/wiki/Casa_Loma), the former estate of [Sir Henry Pellatt](/wiki/Henry_Pellatt), a prominent Toronto financier, industrialist and military man. Other notable neighbourhoods and attractions include [The Beaches](/wiki/The_Beaches), the [Toronto Islands](/wiki/Toronto_Islands), [Kensington Market](/wiki/Kensington_Market), [Fort York](/wiki/Fort_York), and the [Hockey Hall of Fame](/wiki/Hockey_Hall_of_Fame).

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Hockey_Hall_of_Fame,_Toronto.jpg) [Hockey Hall of Fame](/wiki/Hockey_Hall_of_Fame), housed in a former bank erected in 1885, is located downtown [thumb|right|The Toronto Raptors play at the](/wiki/File:Raptors_0607.JPG) [Air Canada Centre](/wiki/Air_Canada_Centre) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Tigersbluejaysapril2008.jpg)[Toronto Blue Jays](/wiki/Toronto_Blue_Jays) host the [Detroit Tigers](/wiki/Detroit_Tigers) at the [Rogers Centre](/wiki/Rogers_Centre) Toronto is represented in six [major league sports](/wiki/Major_professional_sports_leagues_in_the_United_States_and_Canada), with teams in the [National Hockey League](/wiki/National_Hockey_League), [Major League Baseball](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball), [National Basketball Association](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association), [Canadian Football League](/wiki/Canadian_Football_League), [Major League Soccer](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) and [Canadian Women's Hockey League](/wiki/Canadian_Women's_Hockey_League). It was formerly represented in a seventh, the [W-League](/wiki/W-League), until that announced on November 6, 2015 that it would cease operation ahead of 2016 season.[[77]](#cite_note-77)[[78]](#cite_note-78) The [National Football League's](/wiki/National_Football_League) [Buffalo Bills](/wiki/Buffalo_Bills) used to play select home games in the city from 2008 to 2013. The city's major sports venues include the [Air Canada Centre](/wiki/Air_Canada_Centre), [Rogers Centre](/wiki/Rogers_Centre) (formerly SkyDome), [Ricoh Coliseum](/wiki/Ricoh_Coliseum), and [BMO Field](/wiki/BMO_Field).

Toronto is home to the [Toronto Maple Leafs](/wiki/Toronto_Maple_Leafs), one of the [National Hockey League's](/wiki/National_Hockey_League) [Original Six](/wiki/Original_Six) clubs, and has also served as home to the [Hockey Hall of Fame](/wiki/Hockey_Hall_of_Fame) since 1958. The city had a rich history of hockey championships. Along with the Maple Leafs' 13 [Stanley Cup](/wiki/Stanley_Cup) titles, the [Toronto Marlboros](/wiki/Toronto_Marlboros) and [St. Michael's College School](/wiki/St._Michael's_College_School)-based [Ontario Hockey League](/wiki/Ontario_Hockey_League) teams, combined, have won a record 12 [Memorial Cup](/wiki/Memorial_Cup) titles. The [Toronto Marlies](/wiki/Toronto_Marlies) of the [American Hockey League](/wiki/American_Hockey_League) also play in Toronto at [Ricoh Coliseum](/wiki/Ricoh_Coliseum) and are the farm team for the Maple Leafs.

The [Toronto Raptors](/wiki/Toronto_Raptors) entered the [National Basketball Association](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) in 1995, and have since earned seven playoff spots and three [Atlantic Division](/wiki/Atlantic_Division_(NBA)) titles in 20 seasons. The Raptors are the only NBA team with their own television channel, [NBA TV Canada](/wiki/NBA_TV_Canada). They and the Maple Leafs play their home games at the [Air Canada Centre](/wiki/Air_Canada_Centre).

The [Toronto Rock](/wiki/Toronto_Rock) are the city's [National Lacrosse League](/wiki/National_Lacrosse_League) team. They won five [Champion's Cup](/wiki/Champion's_Cup) titles in seven years in the late 1990s and early first decade of the 21st century, appearing in an NLL record five straight championship games from 1999 to 2003, and are currently first all-time in the number of Champion's Cups won. The Rock share the [Air Canada Centre](/wiki/Air_Canada_Centre) with the Maple Leafs and the Raptors.

The city is represented in the [Canadian Football League](/wiki/Canadian_Football_League) by the [Toronto Argonauts](/wiki/Toronto_Argonauts), who have won 16 [Grey Cup](/wiki/Grey_Cup) titles. Toronto played host to the [95th Grey Cup](/wiki/95th_Grey_Cup) in 2007, the first held in the city since 1992. Later in 2012, while hosting the 100th Grey Cup but also participants, they won the game to the delight of the home fans. In addition, the city has hosted several [National Football League](/wiki/National_Football_League) exhibition games; [Ted Rogers](/wiki/Edward_Samuel_Rogers) leased the [Buffalo Bills](/wiki/Buffalo_Bills) from [Ralph Wilson](/wiki/Ralph_Wilson) for the purposes of having the Bills play eight home games in the city between 2008 and 2013. The Argonauts play their home games at [BMO Field](/wiki/BMO_Field), while NFL exhibition games have been traditionally held at [Rogers Centre](/wiki/Rogers_Centre).

The city is home to [Major League Baseball's](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) [Toronto Blue Jays](/wiki/Toronto_Blue_Jays), who have won two [World Series](/wiki/World_Series) titles ([1992](/wiki/1992_World_Series), [1993](/wiki/1993_World_Series)). The Blue Jays play their home games at the [Rogers Centre](/wiki/Rogers_Centre), in the downtown core.

Toronto is represented in [Major League Soccer](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) by the [Toronto FC](/wiki/Toronto_FC), who have won four [Canadian Championship](/wiki/Canadian_Championship) titles. They share [BMO Field](/wiki/BMO_Field) with the Toronto Argonauts.

Toronto was home to the [International Bowl](/wiki/International_Bowl), an [NCAA](/wiki/National_Collegiate_Athletic_Association) sanctioned post-season football game that pitted a [Mid-American Conference](/wiki/Mid-American_Conference) team against a [Big East Conference](/wiki/Big_East_Conference_(1979–2013)) team. From 2007 to 2010, the game was played at Rogers Centre annually in January.

Toronto, along with [Montreal](/wiki/Montreal), hosts an annual Tennis Tournament called the [Rogers Cup](/wiki/Rogers_Cup_(tennis)) between the months of July and August. In odd-numbered years, the men's tournament is held in Montreal, while the women's tournament is held in Toronto, and vice versa in even-numbered years.

[Ultimate (disc)](/wiki/Ultimate_(sport)), in Canada, has its beginning roots in Toronto, with 3300 players competing annually in the Toronto Ultimate Club (League).[[79]](#cite_note-79) Since 2013, Toronto is also home to the [Toronto Rush](/wiki/Toronto_Rush), a semi-professional ultimate team that competes in the [American Ultimate Disc League](/wiki/American_Ultimate_Disc_League) (AUDL).[[80]](#cite_note-80)[[81]](#cite_note-81) The [Toronto Wolfpack](/wiki/Toronto_Wolfpack) will be Canada's first professional [rugby league](/wiki/Rugby_league) team and the first transatlantic professional sports team competing in the British [Rugby Football League's](/wiki/Rugby_Football_League) [League One](/wiki/League_1_(rugby_league)) competition from 2017.[[82]](#cite_note-82) Besides team sports, the city annually hosted [Champ Car's](/wiki/Champ_Car) Molson Indy Toronto at [Exhibition Place](/wiki/Exhibition_Place) from 1986 to 2007. The race was revived in 2009 as the [Honda Indy Toronto](/wiki/Honda_Indy_Toronto), part of the [IndyCar Series](/wiki/IndyCar_Series) schedule. Both [thoroughbred](/wiki/Thoroughbred) and [standardbred](/wiki/Standardbred) [horse racing](/wiki/Horse_racing) events are conducted at [Woodbine Racetrack](/wiki/Woodbine_Racetrack) in [Rexdale](/wiki/Rexdale).

Historic sports clubs of Toronto include [the Granite Club](/wiki/The_Granite_Club) (established in 1836), the [Royal Canadian Yacht Club](/wiki/Royal_Canadian_Yacht_Club) (established in 1852), the Toronto Cricket Skating and Curling Club (established before 1827), the Argonaut Rowing Club (established in 1872), the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club (established in 1881), and the Badminton and Racquet Club (established in 1924).

Toronto was a candidate city for the [1996](/wiki/1996_Summer_Olympics) and [2008 Summer Olympics](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympics), which were awarded to [Atlanta](/wiki/Atlanta) and Beijing respectively.[[83]](#cite_note-83) Toronto hosted the [2015 Pan American Games](/wiki/2015_Pan_American_Games) in July 2015, and the [2015 Parapan American Games](/wiki/2015_Parapan_American_Games) in August 2015. It beat the cities of [Lima](/wiki/Lima), Peru and [Bogotá](/wiki/Bogotá), Colombia, to win the rights to stage the games.[[84]](#cite_note-84) The games were the largest [multi-sport event](/wiki/Multi-sport_event) ever to be held in Canada (in terms of athletes competing), double the size of the [2010 Winter Olympics](/wiki/2010_Winter_Olympics) in [Vancouver](/wiki/Vancouver).[[85]](#cite_note-85) In 2016, Toronto hosted the 65th NBA All-Star game, the first to be held outside the United States.[[86]](#cite_note-86){| class="wikitable sortable" style="border:1px solid #ddd; background:#fefefe; padding:3px; margin:0; margin:auto;" |+ Professional and amateur sports teams in Toronto |- ! scope="col" | Club ! scope="col" | League ! scope="col" | Sport ! scope="col" | Venue ! scope="col" | Established ! scope="col" | Championships |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Argonauts](/wiki/Toronto_Argonauts) | [CFL](/wiki/Canadian_Football_League) | [Football](/wiki/Canadian_football) | [BMO Field](/wiki/BMO_Field) | 1873 | 16 (Last in [2012](/wiki/100th_Grey_Cup)) |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Maple Leafs](/wiki/Toronto_Maple_Leafs) | [NHL](/wiki/National_Hockey_League) | [Ice hockey](/wiki/Ice_hockey) | [Air Canada Centre](/wiki/Air_Canada_Centre) | 1917 | 13 (Last in [1967](/wiki/1967_Stanley_Cup_Finals)) |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Blue Jays](/wiki/Toronto_Blue_Jays) | [MLB](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) | [Baseball](/wiki/Baseball) | [Rogers Centre](/wiki/Rogers_Centre) | 1977 | 2 (Last in [1993](/wiki/1993_World_Series)) |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Raptors](/wiki/Toronto_Raptors) | [NBA](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) | [Basketball](/wiki/Basketball) | [Air Canada Centre](/wiki/Air_Canada_Centre) | 1995 | 0 |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto FC](/wiki/Toronto_FC) | [MLS](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) | [Soccer](/wiki/Association_football) | [BMO Field](/wiki/BMO_Field) | 2007 | 0 |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Wolfpack](/wiki/Toronto_Wolfpack) | [League 1](/wiki/League_1_(rugby_league)) | [Rugby league](/wiki/Rugby_league) | [Lamport Stadium](/wiki/Lamport_Stadium) | 2017 | 0 |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Maple Leafs](/wiki/Toronto_Maple_Leafs_(semi-pro_baseball)) | [IBL](/wiki/Intercounty_Baseball_League) | [Baseball](/wiki/Baseball) | [Christie Pits](/wiki/Christie_Pits) | 1969 | 8 |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Rock](/wiki/Toronto_Rock) | [NLL](/wiki/National_Lacrosse_League) | [Box lacrosse](/wiki/Box_lacrosse) | [Air Canada Centre](/wiki/Air_Canada_Centre) | 1998 | 6 (last in [2011](/wiki/2011_NLL_season)) |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Marlies](/wiki/Toronto_Marlies) | [AHL](/wiki/American_Hockey_League) | [Ice hockey](/wiki/Ice_hockey) | [Ricoh Coliseum](/wiki/Ricoh_Coliseum) | 2005 | 0 |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Furies](/wiki/Toronto_Furies) | [CWHL](/wiki/Canadian_Women's_Hockey_League) | [Women's ice hockey](/wiki/Women's_ice_hockey) | [MasterCard Centre](/wiki/MasterCard_Centre) | 2007 | 1 |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Lady Lynx](/wiki/Toronto_Lady_Lynx) | [USL](/wiki/W-League) | [Women's soccer](/wiki/Women's_association_football) | [Centennial Park Stadium](/wiki/Centennial_Park_Stadium) | 2005 | 0 |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Eagles](/wiki/Toronto_Eagles) | [AFLO](/wiki/Ontario_Australian_Football_League) | [Australian Football](/wiki/Australian_rules_football) | [Humber College North](/wiki/Humber_College) | 1989 | 12 |- ! scope="row" style="font-weight: normal; text-align: left;" | [Toronto Rush](/wiki/Toronto_Rush) | [AUDL](/wiki/American_Ultimate_Disc_League) | [Ultimate Frisbee](/wiki/Ultimate_Frisbee) | [Varsity Stadium](/wiki/Varsity_Stadium) | 2013 | 1 |}

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Toronto is Canada's largest media market,[[87]](#cite_note-87) and has four conventional dailies, two [alt-weeklies](/wiki/Alternative_newspaper), and three free commuter papers in a greater metropolitan area of about 6 million inhabitants. The [*Toronto Star*](/wiki/Toronto_Star) and the [*Toronto Sun*](/wiki/Toronto_Sun) are the prominent daily city newspapers, while national dailies, [*The Globe and Mail*](/wiki/The_Globe_and_Mail) and the [*National Post*](/wiki/National_Post) are also headquartered in the city. The *Toronto Star*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *National Post* are broadsheet newspapers. [*Metro*](/wiki/Metro_International) and [*24 Hours*](/wiki/24_Hours_(newspaper)) are distributed as free commuter newspapers. Several magazines and local newspapers cover Toronto, including [*Now*](/wiki/Now_(newspaper)) and [*Toronto Life*](/wiki/Toronto_Life), while numerous magazines are produced in Toronto, such as [*Canadian Business*](/wiki/Canadian_Business), [*Chatelaine*](/wiki/Chatelaine_(magazine)), [*Flare*](/wiki/Flare_(magazine)) and [*Maclean's*](/wiki/Maclean's).

Toronto contains the headquarters of the major English-language Canadian television networks [CBC](/wiki/CBC_Television), [CTV](/wiki/CTV_Television_Network), [City](/wiki/City_(TV_network)), [Global](/wiki/Global_Television_Network), [The Sports Network](/wiki/The_Sports_Network) (TSN) and [Sportsnet](/wiki/Sportsnet). [MuchMusic](/wiki/MuchMusic), [MuchMore](/wiki/MuchMore) and [MTV Canada](/wiki/MTV_(Canada)) are the main music television channels based in the city, though they no longer primarily show music videos as a result of [channel drift](/wiki/Channel_drift).

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Update](/wiki/Template:Update) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Toronto is an international centre for business and finance. Generally considered the financial capital of Canada, Toronto has a high concentration of banks and brokerage firms on [Bay Street](/wiki/Bay_Street), in the [Financial District](/wiki/Financial_District,_Toronto). The [Toronto Stock Exchange](/wiki/Toronto_Stock_Exchange) is the world's [seventh-largest](/wiki/List_of_stock_exchanges) stock exchange by market capitalization.[[88]](#cite_note-88) The five largest financial institutions of Canada, collectively known as the [Big Five](/wiki/Big_Five_(banks)), have national offices in Toronto.[[89]](#cite_note-89) The city is an important centre for the media, publishing, telecommunication, information technology and film production industries; it is home to [Bell Media](/wiki/Bell_Media), [Rogers Communications](/wiki/Rogers_Communications), and [Torstar](/wiki/Torstar). Other prominent Canadian corporations in the Greater Toronto Area include [Magna International](/wiki/Magna_International), [Celestica](/wiki/Celestica), [Manulife Financial](/wiki/Manulife_Financial), [Sun Life Financial](/wiki/Sun_Life_Financial), the [Hudson's Bay Company](/wiki/Hudson's_Bay_Company), and major hotel companies and operators, such as [Four Seasons Hotels](/wiki/Four_Seasons_Hotels_and_Resorts) and [Fairmont Hotels and Resorts](/wiki/Fairmont_Hotels_and_Resorts).

Although much of the region's manufacturing activities take place outside the city limits, Toronto continues to be a wholesale and distribution point for the industrial sector. The city's strategic position along the [Quebec City – Windsor Corridor](/wiki/Quebec_City_–_Windsor_Corridor) and its road and rail connections help support the nearby production of motor vehicles, iron, steel, food, machinery, chemicals and paper. The completion of the [Saint Lawrence Seaway](/wiki/Saint_Lawrence_Seaway) in 1959 gave ships access to the [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes) from the Atlantic Ocean.

Toronto's unemployment rate was 8.1% in November 2011, down from 8.3% year over year.[[90]](#cite_note-90) The [cost of living](/wiki/Cost_of_living) in Toronto was [ranked highest in Canada](/wiki/List_of_most_expensive_cities_for_expatriate_employees) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[91]](#cite_note-91)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Developed in the early 1900s,](/wiki/File:TTC_CLRV_College_St_@_Montrose_Ave.jpg) [Little Italy](/wiki/Little_Italy,_Toronto) is one of the city's oldest extant ethnic neighbourhoods.[[92]](#cite_note-92) The city's population grew by 4% (96,073 residents) between 1996 and 2001, 1% (21,787 residents) between 2001 and 2006, and 4.3% (111,779 residents) between 2006 and 2011. Persons aged 14 years and under made up 17.5% of the population, and those aged 65 years and over made up 13.6%. The [median](/wiki/Median) age was 36.9 years. Foreign-born people made up 49.9% of the population.[[93]](#cite_note-93) The city's gender population is 48% male and 52% female.[[94]](#cite_note-94) Women outnumber men in all age groups over 20.[[95]](#cite_note-95) In 2011, 49.1% of the residents of the city proper belonged to a [visible minority](/wiki/Visible_minority) group,[[96]](#cite_note-96) and visible minorities are projected to comprise a majority in the [Toronto CMA](/wiki/Greater_Toronto_Area#Census_metropolitan_area) by 2017.<ref name=minorityprojection>[Canada's visible minority population in 2017](http://www.statcan.ca:80/Daily/English/050322/d050322b.htm), Statistics Canada (2005); retrieved December 5, 2006.</ref> In 1981, Toronto's visible minority population was 13.6%.[[97]](#cite_note-97) According to the [United Nations Development Programme](/wiki/United_Nations_Development_Programme), Toronto has the second-highest percentage of constant foreign-born population among world cities, after [Miami, Florida](/wiki/Miami). While Miami's foreign-born population has traditionally consisted primarily of [Cubans](/wiki/Cuba) and other Latin Americans, no single nationality or culture dominates Toronto's immigrant population, placing it among the most diverse cities in the world.[[93]](#cite_note-93) Visible minorities are projected to increase to 63% of the city's population by 2031.[[98]](#cite_note-98) Over 100,000 immigrants arrive in the Greater Toronto Area annually.[[99]](#cite_note-99) In the [2011 Canadian census](/wiki/Canada_2011_Census), the most common ethnic origins in the city of Toronto were as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [**Ethnic origin**](/wiki/Ethnic_origins_of_people_in_Canada) | **Population<ref name=StatCan2011EO>**[**Template:Cite web**](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)**</ref>** | **Percentage** |
| [English](/wiki/English_Canadian) | 333,220 | 12.9 |
| [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_Canadians) | 308,690 | 12.0 |
| [Canadian](/wiki/Canadians) | 291,665 | 11.3 |
| [Irish](/wiki/Irish_Canadian) | 250,460 | 9.7 |
| [Scottish](/wiki/Scottish_Canadian) | 245,545 | 9.5 |
| [East Indian](/wiki/Indo-Canadians) | 195,590 | 7.6 |
| [Italian](/wiki/Italian_Canadians) | 177,065 | 6.9 |
| [Filipino](/wiki/Filipino_Canadians) | 140,420 | 5.5 |
| [German](/wiki/Canadians_of_German_ethnicity) | 119,030 | 4.6 |
| [French](/wiki/French_Canadians) | 115,300 | 4.5 |
| [Polish](/wiki/Polish_Canadian) | 98,315 | 3.8 |
| [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_Canadian) | 93,050 | 3.6 |
| [Jamaican](/wiki/Jamaican_Canadians) | 81,380 | 3.2 |
| [Jewish](/wiki/Jewish_Canadian) | 78,860 | 3.1 |
| [Ukrainian](/wiki/Ukrainian_Canadian) | 64,875 | 2.5 |
| [Russian](/wiki/Russian_Canadian) | 62,850 | 2.4 |

Toronto has a racially diverse population. In 2011 its population defined itself thus:[[96]](#cite_note-96)\* 50.2% [White](/wiki/European_Canadian)

* 12.7% [East Asian](/wiki/East_Asia); *10.8%* [*Chinese*](/wiki/Chinese_Canadians)*, 1.4%* [*Korean*](/wiki/Korean_Canadians)*, 0.5%* [*Japanese*](/wiki/Japanese_Canadians)
* 12.3% [South Asian](/wiki/South_Asian_Canadian)
* 8.5% [Black](/wiki/Black_Canadians)
* 7.0% [Southeast Asian](/wiki/Southeast_Asia); *5.1%* [*Filipino*](/wiki/Filipino_Canadians)
* 2.8% [Latin American](/wiki/Latin_American_Canadians)
* 2.0% [West Asian](/wiki/West_Asian_people)
* 1.1% [Arab](/wiki/Arab_Canadians)
* 0.7% [Aboriginal](/wiki/Aboriginal_peoples_in_Canada), of which *0.5% are* [*First Nations*](/wiki/First_Nations) *and 0.2% are* [*Métis*](/wiki/Métis_people_(Canada))
* 1.5% [Multiracial](/wiki/Multiracial); *1.7% including Métis*
* 1.3% Other

This diversity is reflected in Toronto's ethnic neighbourhoods, which include [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Toronto), [Corso Italia](/wiki/Corso_Italia_(Toronto)), [Greektown](/wiki/Greektown,_Toronto), [Kensington Market](/wiki/Kensington_Market), [Koreatown](/wiki/Koreatown,_Toronto), [Little India](/wiki/Gerrard_Street_(Toronto)), [Little Italy](/wiki/Little_Italy,_Toronto), [Little Jamaica](/wiki/Eglinton_West), [Little Portugal](/wiki/Little_Portugal,_Toronto) and [Roncesvalles](/wiki/Roncesvalles,_Toronto).[[100]](#cite_note-100) In 2011, the most commonly reported religion in Toronto was [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity), adhered to by 54.1% of the population. A plurality, 28.2%, of the city's population was [Catholic](/wiki/Catholicism_in_Canada), followed by [Protestants](/wiki/Protestantism) (11.9%), [Christian Orthodox](/wiki/Orthodox_Christianity) (4.3%), and members of other Christian denominations (9.7%). With the city's significant number of [Methodist](/wiki/Methodism) Christians, Toronto was historically referred to as the [Methodist Rome](/wiki/Methodist_Rome).

Other religions significantly practised in the city are [Islam](/wiki/Islam) (8.2%), [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism) (5.6%), [Judaism](/wiki/Judaism) (3.8%), [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism) (2.7%), and [Sikhism](/wiki/Sikhism) (0.8%). Those with no religious affiliation made up 24.2% of Toronto's population.[[96]](#cite_note-96) While English is the predominant language spoken by Torontonians, many other languages have considerable numbers of local speakers.<ref name=lan3>[Various Languages Spoken – Toronto](http://www12.statcan.ca:80/english/census06/data/topics/RetrieveProductTable.cfm?ALEVEL=3&APATH=3&CATNO=&DETAIL=0&DIM=&DS=99&FL=0&FREE=0&GAL=0&GC=99&GK=NA&GRP=1&IPS=&METH=0&ORDER=1&PID=89189&PTYPE=88971&RL=0&S=1&SUB=0&ShowAll=No&StartRow=1&Temporal=2006&Theme=70&VID=0&VNAMEE=&VNAMEF=&GID=838003) [CMA](/wiki/Census_metropolitan_area), Statistics Canada (2006); retrieved September 9, 2009.</ref> The varieties of Chinese and Italian are the second and third most widely spoken languages at work.<ref name=lan>[Language used at work by mother tongue in Toronto](http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/highlight/LanguageWork/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo=CMA&View=2&Table=1&Code=535&Sort=2&B1=&B2=1) [CMA](/wiki/Census_metropolitan_area), Statistics Canada (2001). Retrieved December 5, 2006.</ref><ref name=lang2>[Language used at work by mother tongue (City of Toronto)](http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/highlight/LanguageWork/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo=CSD&View=4&Code=3520005&Table=1&StartRec=1&Sort=5&B1=Toronto&B2=1), Statistics Canada (2001); retrieved December 5, 2006.</ref> Despite Canada's [official bilingualism](/wiki/Official_bilingualism_in_Canada), while 9.7% of [Ontario's Francophones](/wiki/Franco-Ontarian) live in Toronto, only 0.6% of the population reported [French](/wiki/French_language) as a singular language spoken most often at home; meanwhile 64% reported speaking predominantly English only and 28.3% primarily used a non-official language; 7.1% reported commonly speaking multiple languages at home.[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102) The city's [9-1-1](/wiki/9-1-1) emergency services are equipped to respond in over 150 languages.[[103]](#cite_note-103)

## Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further2](/wiki/Template:Further2) [thumb|Toronto's Electoral Wards](/wiki/File:Canada_Toronto_Wards_location_map.svg)

Toronto is a [single-tier municipality](/wiki/Single-tier_municipality) governed by a [mayor–council system](/wiki/Mayor–council_government). The structure of the municipal government is stipulated by the [City of Toronto Act](/wiki/City_of_Toronto_Act). The [Mayor of Toronto](/wiki/Mayor_of_Toronto) is elected by direct popular vote to serve as the [chief executive](/wiki/Head_of_government) of the city. The [Toronto City Council](/wiki/Toronto_City_Council) is a [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameralism) legislative body, comprising 44 councillors representing geographical [wards](/wiki/Ward_(country_subdivision)) throughout the city. The mayor and members of the city council serve four-year terms without [term limits](/wiki/Term_limit). (Until the [2006 municipal election](/wiki/Toronto_municipal_election,_2006), the mayor and city councillors served three-year terms.) However, on November 18, 2013, council voted to modify the city's government by transferring many executive powers from mayor [Rob Ford](/wiki/Rob_Ford) to the deputy mayor, [Norm Kelly](/wiki/Norm_Kelly), and itself.[[104]](#cite_note-104) At the start of the 2007 term, the city council will have seven standing committees, each consisting of a Chairman, a vice-chair and four other councillors. The Mayor names the committee chairs and the remaining membership of the committees is appointed by City Council.[[105]](#cite_note-105) An executive committee is formed by the chairs of each of standing committee, along with the mayor, the deputy mayor and four other councillors. Councillors are also appointed to oversee the [Toronto Transit Commission](/wiki/Toronto_Transit_Commission) and the [Toronto Police Services Board](/wiki/Toronto_Police_Services_Board).

The city has four community councils that consider local matters. City Council has delegated final decision-making authority on local, routine matters, while others—like planning and zoning issues—are recommended to the city council. Each city councillor serves as a member on a community council.

There are about 40 subcommittees and advisory committees appointed by the city council. These bodies are made up of city councillors and private citizen volunteers. Examples include the Pedestrian Committee, Waste Diversion Task Force 2010, and the [Task Force to Bring Back the Don](/wiki/Task_Force_to_Bring_Back_the_Don).[[106]](#cite_note-106) Toronto had an operating budget of [C$](/wiki/Canadian_dollar)7.6 billion in 2006.[[107]](#cite_note-107) The city receives funding from the [Government of Ontario](/wiki/Government_of_Ontario) in addition to tax revenues and user fees, spending 36% on provincially mandated programmes, 53% on major municipal purposes such as the [Toronto Public Library](/wiki/Toronto_Public_Library) and the [Toronto Zoo](/wiki/Toronto_Zoo), and 11% on capital financing and non-programme expenditures.[[108]](#cite_note-108)

## Crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The low [crime rate](/wiki/Crime_statistics)<ref name=crime>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> in Toronto has resulted in the city having a reputation as one of the safest major cities in North America.<ref name=crime1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=crime2/> For instance, in 2007, the [homicide](/wiki/Homicide) rate for Toronto was 3.3 per 100,000 people, compared with [Atlanta](/wiki/Atlanta) (19.7), Boston (10.3), Los Angeles (10.0), New York City (6.3), [Vancouver](/wiki/Vancouver) (3.1), and [Montreal](/wiki/Montreal) (2.6). Toronto's robbery rate also ranks low, with 207.1 robberies per 100,000 people, compared with Los Angeles (348.5), Vancouver (266.2), New York City (265.9), and Montreal (235.3).[[109]](#cite_note-109)[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111)[[112]](#cite_note-112)[[113]](#cite_note-113)[[114]](#cite_note-114) Toronto has a comparable rate of [car theft](/wiki/Motor_vehicle_theft) to various US cities, although it is not among the highest in Canada.<ref name=crime/>

Toronto recorded its largest number of homicides in 1991 with 89, a rate of 3.9 per 100,000.<ref name=guncontrol>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[115]](#cite_note-115) In 2005, Toronto media coined the term "Year of the Gun", because there was a record number of gun-related homicides, 52, out of 80 homicides in total.<ref name=crime2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[116]](#cite_note-116) The total number of homicides dropped to 70 in 2006, that year, nearly 2,000 people in Toronto were victims of a violent gun-related crime, about one-quarter of the national total.[[117]](#cite_note-117) 84 homicides were committed in 2007, roughly half of which involved guns. Gang-related incidents have also been on the rise; between the years of 1997 and 2005, over 300 gang-related homicides have occurred. As a result, the Ontario government developed an anti-gun strategy.[[118]](#cite_note-118) In 2011, Toronto's murder rate plummeted to 45 murders—nearly a 26% drop from the previous year. The 45 homicides were the lowest number the city has recorded since 1986.[[119]](#cite_note-119) While subsequent years did see a return to higher rates, the nearly flat line of 56 homicides in 2012 and 57 in both 2013 and 2014 continued to be a significant improvement over the previous decade; and the year-to-date figure of 47 murders at November 23, 2015 continued that overall trend of improvement.<ref name=TPS2015YTD>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|University College at the](/wiki/File:Uoft_universitycollege.jpg) [University of Toronto](/wiki/University_of_Toronto) Toronto has a number of post-secondary academic institutions. The [University of Toronto](/wiki/University_of_Toronto), established in 1827, is Canada's largest university and has two satellite campuses, [one of which](/wiki/University_of_Toronto_Scarborough) is located in the city's eastern district of [Scarborough](/wiki/Scarborough,_Toronto) while [the other](/wiki/University_of_Toronto_Mississauga) is located in the neighbouring city of [Mississauga](/wiki/Mississauga). [York University](/wiki/York_University), Canada's third-largest university, founded in 1959, is located in the northwest part of the city. Toronto is also home to [Ryerson University](/wiki/Ryerson_University), [OCAD University](/wiki/OCAD_University), and the [University of Guelph-Humber](/wiki/University_of_Guelph-Humber).

There are four diploma- and degree-granting [colleges](/wiki/Community_college) in Toronto. These are [Seneca College](/wiki/Seneca_College), [Humber College](/wiki/Humber_College), [Centennial College](/wiki/Centennial_College) and [George Brown College](/wiki/George_Brown_College). The city is also home to a satellite campus of the francophone [Collège Boréal](/wiki/Collège_Boréal).

[The Royal Conservatory of Music](/wiki/The_Royal_Conservatory_of_Music), which includes [the Glenn Gould School](/wiki/The_Glenn_Gould_School), is a school of music located downtown. The [Canadian Film Centre](/wiki/Canadian_Film_Centre) is a film, television and new media training institute founded by filmmaker [Norman Jewison](/wiki/Norman_Jewison). [Tyndale University College and Seminary](/wiki/Tyndale_University_College_and_Seminary) is a Christian post-secondary institution and Canada's largest seminary.

The [Toronto District School Board](/wiki/Toronto_District_School_Board) (TDSB) operates 558 public schools. Of these, 451 are elementary and 102 are secondary (high) schools. Additionally, the [Toronto Catholic District School Board](/wiki/Toronto_Catholic_District_School_Board) manages the city's publicly funded Roman Catholic schools, while the [Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest](/wiki/Conseil_scolaire_de_district_du_Centre-Sud-Ouest) and the [Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud](/wiki/Conseil_scolaire_de_district_catholique_Centre-Sud) manage public and Roman Catholic French-language schools, respectively. There are also numerous private university-preparatory schools including the [University of Toronto Schools](/wiki/University_of_Toronto_Schools), the [Upper Canada College](/wiki/Upper_Canada_College) and [Havergal College](/wiki/Havergal_College).

The [Toronto Public Library](/wiki/Toronto_Public_Library)[[120]](#cite_note-120) consists of 100[[121]](#cite_note-121) branches with more than 11 million items in its collection.[[122]](#cite_note-122)

## Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

### Health and medicine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Toronto_-_ON_-_Toronto_General_Hospital.jpg)[Toronto General Hospital](/wiki/Toronto_General_Hospital) Toronto is home to 20 public hospitals, including [the Hospital for Sick Children](/wiki/The_Hospital_for_Sick_Children), [Mount Sinai Hospital](/wiki/Mount_Sinai_Hospital,_Toronto), [St. Michael's Hospital](/wiki/St._Michael's_Hospital_(Toronto)), [North York General Hospital](/wiki/North_York_General_Hospital), [Toronto General Hospital](/wiki/Toronto_General_Hospital), [Toronto Western Hospital](/wiki/Toronto_Western_Hospital), [St. Joseph's Health Centre](/wiki/St._Joseph's_Health_Centre), [Rouge Valley Health System](/wiki/Rouge_Valley_Health_System), [The Scarborough Hospital](/wiki/The_Scarborough_Hospital), [Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre](/wiki/Sunnybrook_Health_Sciences_Centre), [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](/wiki/Centre_for_Addiction_and_Mental_Health) (CAMH), and [Princess Margaret Cancer Centre](/wiki/Princess_Margaret_Cancer_Centre), as well as the [University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine](/wiki/University_of_Toronto_Faculty_of_Medicine).

In 2007, Toronto was reported as having some of the longer average ER wait times in Ontario. Toronto hospitals at the time employed a system of triage to ensure life-threatening injuries receive rapid treatment.[[123]](#cite_note-123) After initial screening, initial assessments by physicians were completed within the waiting rooms themselves for greater efficiency, within a median of 1.2 hours. Tests, consultations, and initial treatments were also provided within waiting rooms. 50% of patients waited 4 hours before being transferred from the emergency room to another room.[[123]](#cite_note-123) The least-urgent 10% of cases wait over 12 hours.[[123]](#cite_note-123) The extended waiting-room times experienced by some patients were attributed to an overall shortage of acute care beds.[[123]](#cite_note-123) Toronto's [Discovery District](/wiki/Discovery_District)<ref name=district>[Toronto Discovery District FAQ](http://www.torontodiscoverydistrict.ca/Page.asp?IdPage=5760&WebAddress=DiscoveryDistrict/), Toronto Discovery District (2006). Retrieved December 5, 2006. [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)</ref> is a centre of research in [biomedicine](/wiki/Biomedicine). It is located on a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) research park that is integrated into Toronto's downtown core. It is also home to the [Medical and Related Sciences Centre (MaRS)](/wiki/MaRS_Discovery_District),<ref name=mars>[Medical and Related Sciences Centre](http://www.marsdd.com/), Medical and Related Sciences Centre (2006). Retrieved December 5, 2006.</ref> which was created in 2000 to capitalize on the research and innovation strength of the Province of Ontario. Another institute is the McLaughlin Centre for Molecular Medicine (MCMM).<ref name=mole>[McLaughlin Centre for Molecular Medicine (MCMM)](http://www.mclaughlin.utoronto.ca/Page4.aspx), McLaughlin Centre for Molecular Medicine (2006). Retrieved December 5, 2006.</ref>

Toronto also has some specialized hospitals located outside of the downtown core. These hospitals include [Baycrest](/wiki/Baycrest) for geriatric care and [Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital](/wiki/Holland_Bloorview_Kids_Rehabilitation_Hospital) for children with disabilities.

Toronto is also host to a wide variety of health-focused non-profit organizations that work to address specific illnesses for Toronto, Ontario and Canadian residents. Organizations include [The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada](/wiki/The_Crohn's_and_Colitis_Foundation_of_Canada), the [Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada](/wiki/Heart_and_Stroke_Foundation_of_Canada), the [Canadian Cancer Society](/wiki/Canadian_Cancer_Society), the [Alzheimer Society of Canada](/wiki/Alzheimer_Society_of_Canada), [Alzheimer Society of Ontario](/wiki/Alzheimer_Society_of_Ontario) and [Alzheimer Society of Toronto](/wiki/Alzheimer_Society_of_Toronto), all situated in the same office at [Yonge and Eglinton](/wiki/Yonge_and_Eglinton), the [Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada](/wiki/Leukemia_&_Lymphoma_Society_of_Canada), the [Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation](/wiki/Canadian_Breast_Cancer_Foundation), the [Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research](/wiki/Canadian_Foundation_for_AIDS_Research), [Cystic Fibrosis Canada](/wiki/Cystic_Fibrosis_Canada), the [Canadian Mental Health Association](/wiki/Canadian_Mental_Health_Association), the [ALS Society of Canada](/wiki/ALS_Society_of_Canada) and many others. The organizations work to help people within the GTA, Ontario or Canada who are affected by these illnesses. As well, most engage in fundraising to promote research, services and public awareness.

### Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[thumb|A](/wiki/File:Lakeshore_West_GO_Train_Westbound.jpg) [GO Train](/wiki/GO_Train) along the [Lakeshore West line](/wiki/Lakeshore_West_line) at [Sunnyside](/wiki/Sunnyside,_Toronto) in Toronto [thumb|](/wiki/File:UnionStationToronto.jpg)[Toronto Union Station](/wiki/Union_Station_(Toronto)) serves over 250,000 passengers a day [thumb|](/wiki/File:Pearson_International.JPG)[Pearson International Airport](/wiki/Toronto_Pearson_International_Airport) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Gardiner_Expressway_Downtown_Toronto.jpg)[Gardiner Expressway](/wiki/Gardiner_Expressway) in downtown [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Toronto's transport forms the hub of the road, rail and air networks in the [Greater Toronto Area](/wiki/Greater_Toronto_Area) and much of southern [Ontario](/wiki/Ontario). There are many forms of [transport](/wiki/Transport) in the city of Toronto, including [highways](/wiki/400-series_highways) and [public transit](/wiki/Public_transit_in_Toronto). Toronto also has an extensive [network of bicycle lanes](/wiki/Cycling_in_Toronto) and multi-use trails and paths.

#### Public transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Toronto's main public transportation system is operated by the [Toronto Transit Commission](/wiki/Toronto_Transit_Commission) (TTC).[[48]](#cite_note-48) The backbone of its public transport network is the [Toronto rapid transit](/wiki/Toronto_rapid_transit) system, which includes three heavy-rail rapid transit lines and a mainly elevated [light-metro rapid transit line that runs in Scarborough](/wiki/Scarborough_RT). The TTC also operates an extensive network of [buses](/wiki/Toronto_Transit_Commission_buses) and [streetcars](/wiki/Toronto_streetcar_system). There have been numerous plans to extend the subway and implement light-rail lines, but many efforts have been thwarted by budgetary concerns. Since July 2011, the only subway-related work is the [Spadina](/wiki/Yonge–University_line) subway (line 1) extension north of [Downsview Station](/wiki/Downsview_(TTC)) to Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. By November 2011, construction on the [Eglinton Crosstown LRT](/wiki/Eglinton_Crosstown_line) (line 5) began. Line 5 is scheduled to finish by 2020.[[124]](#cite_note-124)[[125]](#cite_note-125) In 2015, the Ontario government promised to fund the [Finch West LRT](/wiki/Finch_West_LRT) (line 7) which is to be completed by 2021.[[126]](#cite_note-126) The Government of Ontario also operates an interregional rail and bus transit system called [GO Transit](/wiki/GO_Transit) in the Greater Toronto Area. GO Transit carries over 250,000 passengers every weekday (2013) and 57 million annually, with a majority of them travelling to or from [Union Station](/wiki/Union_Station_(Toronto)).[[127]](#cite_note-127)[[128]](#cite_note-128) GO Transit is implementing RER (Regional Express Rail) into their system.[[129]](#cite_note-129)

#### Airports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

Canada's busiest airport, [Toronto Pearson International Airport](/wiki/Toronto_Pearson_International_Airport) ([IATA](/wiki/International_Air_Transport_Association_airport_code): YYZ), straddles the city's western boundary with the suburban city of [Mississauga](/wiki/Mississauga). Limited commercial and passenger service is also offered from the [Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport](/wiki/Billy_Bishop_Toronto_City_Airport) on the [Toronto Islands](/wiki/Toronto_Islands), southwest of downtown. [Toronto/Buttonville Municipal Airport](/wiki/Toronto/Buttonville_Municipal_Airport) in [Markham](/wiki/Markham,_Ontario) provides [general aviation](/wiki/General_aviation) facilities. [Toronto/Downsview Airport](/wiki/Toronto/Downsview_Airport), near the city's north end, is owned by [de Havilland Canada](/wiki/De_Havilland_Canada) and serves the [Bombardier Aerospace](/wiki/Bombardier_Aerospace) aircraft factory.

The [Union Pearson Express](/wiki/Union_Pearson_Express) is a train service that provides a direct link between Pearson International and Union Station. It began carrying passengers in June 2015.

#### Road system[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

The grid of major city streets was laid out by a [concession road](/wiki/Concession_road) system, in which major arterial roads are [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) apart (with some exceptions, particularly in Scarborough and Etobicoke, as they were originally separate townships). Major east-west arterial roads are generally parallel with the Lake Ontario shoreline, and major north-south arterial roads are roughly perpendicular to the shoreline, though slightly angled north of Eglinton Avenue. This arrangement is sometimes broken by geographical accidents, most notably the Don River ravines.

Toronto's grid north is approximately 18.5° to the west of true north.

There are a number of municipal [expressways](/wiki/Limited-access_road) and [provincial highways](/wiki/Highways_in_Ontario) that serve Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area. In particular, [Highway 401](/wiki/Ontario_Highway_401) bisects the city from west to east, bypassing the downtown core. It is the busiest road in North America,[[130]](#cite_note-130)and one of the busiest highways in the world.[[131]](#cite_note-131)[[132]](#cite_note-132) The main municipal expressways in Toronto include the [Gardiner Expressway](/wiki/Gardiner_Expressway), the [Don Valley Parkway](/wiki/Don_Valley_Parkway), and to some extent, [Allen Road](/wiki/Allen_Road). The Greater Toronto Area suffers from chronic traffic congestion problems, and Toronto has the second worst traffic congestion in Canada after [Vancouver](/wiki/Vancouver).[[133]](#cite_note-133)

## Notable people[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

## International relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Col-begin](/wiki/Template:Col-begin) [Template:Col-2](/wiki/Template:Col-2)

Partnership cities[[134]](#cite_note-134)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Chongqing](/wiki/Chongqing), China (1986)

* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Chicago](/wiki/Chicago), [Illinois](/wiki/Illinois), United States (1991)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Frankfurt](/wiki/Frankfurt), Germany (1989)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon), Portugal[[135]](#cite_note-135)[[136]](#cite_note-136)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Milan](/wiki/Milan), Italy (2003)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo), Brazil[[137]](#cite_note-137)[[138]](#cite_note-138)[Template:Col-2](/wiki/Template:Col-2)

Friendship cities[[134]](#cite_note-134)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Ho Chi Minh City](/wiki/Ho_Chi_Minh_City), Vietnam (2006)

* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Kyiv](/wiki/Kiev), Ukraine (1992)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Quito](/wiki/Quito), Ecuador (2006)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Sagamihara](/wiki/Sagamihara), Japan (1991)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Warsaw](/wiki/Warsaw), Poland (1990)

[Template:Col-end](/wiki/Template:Col-end)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Great Lakes Megalopolis](/wiki/Great_Lakes_Megalopolis)
* [Largest cities in the Americas](/wiki/Largest_cities_in_the_Americas)
* [List of metropolitan areas in the Americas](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_the_Americas)
* [OPENCities](/wiki/OPENCities)
* [Outline of Toronto](/wiki/Outline_of_Toronto) (extensive topic list)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Notelist](/wiki/Template:Notelist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

### Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book) Also ISBN 1-55199-010-5 (paperback).
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* The novel "[In the Skin of a Lion](/wiki/In_the_Skin_of_a_Lion)" by [Michael Ondaatje](/wiki/Michael_Ondaatje) depicts Toronto in the 1920s, giving prominence to the construction of Toronto landmarks, such as the [Prince Edward Viaduct](/wiki/Prince_Edward_Viaduct) and the [R. C. Harris Water Treatment Plant](/wiki/R._C._Harris_Water_Treatment_Plant), and focusing on the lives of the immigrant workers.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website), the official City of Toronto web site
* [Tourism Toronto](http://www.torontotourism.com/), by the Toronto Convention & Visitors Association

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