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inura
Urban Planning
and Social Policy

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DiverseCity

Bulletin 14 • June 1998

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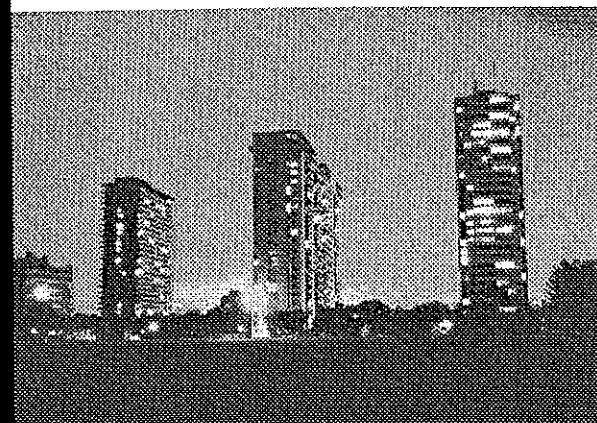
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membership

Individuals, informal groups	\$30.00
Institutions	\$200.00
Reduced fee (Students, people with low income or with non-convertible currency)	\$ 20.00
<i>Donations welcome</i>	

Conference Sept 14 - 16, 1998 Retreat Sept 17 - 20, 1998



DiverseCity

Announcing the 8th annual International Network for Urban Research and Action (INURA) meeting to be held in Toronto, Canada from September 14 to 20, 1998.

inura

inura

was founded in Switzerland in 1991 with the aim of developing interactions between urban social and environmental movements through social action, research and theoretical analysis. The network holds conferences, promotes progressive urban actions, as well as publishing books, bulletins and other scholarly and journalistic material. The membership extends through many European and American cities. Past conferences have been held in Salecina, Switzerland (1991); Rostock, Germany (1992); Durham, UK (1993); Siena, Italy (1994); Amsterdam, Holland (1995); Luton, U. K. (1996); and Zurich, Switzerland (1997).

purpose of the conference

- to enhance the dialogue between urban scholars and activists and to improve their strategic connections to contest neoliberal urbanist projects around the world
- to improve contacts among urbanists from different countries and cities in order to help co-ordinate resistance against the negative impacts of globalization
- to present Toronto as an example of urbanization at the end of the 20th century; as an ideal place to compare American and European cities with their diverging and converging trajectories of urbanization. Special attention will be given to the politics and conflicts around recent governance restructuring in Toronto.

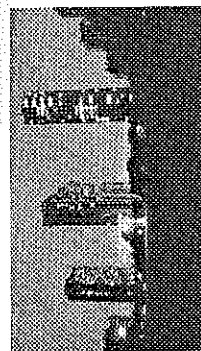
toronto

is Canada's largest metropolis. It encompasses an urban area of 2.5 million people within an urbanized region of 4 million people in Southern Ontario along Lake Ontario's northern shore. Often described as the city that works, or New York run by the Swiss, Toronto is a city which combines elements of North American and European urbanism. With approximately 40 per cent of the population being recently arrived immigrants, Toronto is an ideal place to meet and discuss questions relating to a DiverseCity. Throughout this Toronto conference, a series of panel discussions and city tours will provide the format for examining DiverseCity in spaces of production and reproduction, immigrant and First Nations experiences, and urban ecology.

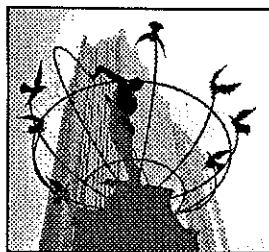
Toronto is not notable for standard tourist attractions - there are no great historical monuments, few buildings of great architectural significance, no precedent-setting theme parks, and certainly no remarkable scenery. Nevertheless, early in 1995 a Geneva-based social survey company ranked this as the fourth best city in the world in which to live, and there are many things here which an inquisitive visitor, such as a geographer or a planner, might wish to see.

To western Canadians, Toronto is a big blob of affluence, arrogance and corporate authority, sprawling across southern Ontario. To a young executive living in the heart of the city in a luxury condominium apartment, Toronto is a magnificent concentration of material pleasures extending a few blocks. In between these extremes Toronto exists officially at several scales, so it is not necessarily clear what it is.

● Edward Ralph, *The Toronto Guide: The City, Metro, The Region* (Toronto: Centre for Urban and Community Studies,



approaching



downtown Toronto on the Gardiner Expressway from the East in the spring of 1998 presents the New Toronto in the most striking fashion. To the left, by the water, the Rooster Squat, the former Canada Malting Co. Building, has become the homestead of homeless youth and a general symbol of a social crisis which has the city in its grip despite an economic upturn; straight ahead on the right, the Maple Raptors Air Canada Centre represents the reawakened real estate frenzy particularly in the downtown, where office rents have doubled during the past year. This polarization has become the status quo in a city famed for its capacity to avoid the worst excesses of social injustice witnessed in cities south of the border. It will depend on the politics straddling these poles how Toronto will fare in the future.

● Roger Kell, *Toronto in the 1990s: Dissociated Governance? Studies in Political Economy*, Spring 1998

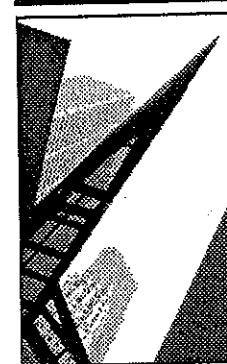
is one very obvious example of an edge, but Toronto is also a city at the edge of American history. With its draft dodgers, deserters and emigre academics, it is almost like Tolkien's Rivendell, safe from the ragings of the archaic darkness of Sauron and the Ring wraiths. Whether one can permanently live in Rivendell is a question I ask myself daily, but at the moment Toronto seems the perfect retreat in which to look from one end of history to the other.

● Historian William Irwin Thompson in 1971

confuses its visitors. To Americans, the Canadian metropolis is everything American cities are not. There are people on the street, the downtown is not an empty place after office hours, crime rates are relatively low, the sharp racial and ethnic segregation typical of American cities does not exist; rather, a colourful mosaic of ethnically diversified communities creates an urban landscape that is full of surprises. A public transit system is in place which feeds loads of bus and streetcar passengers into an efficient, clean and fast two line subway system.

To Europeans, Toronto is a bridge onto the American continent. Toronto is one of the most European of North America's big cities. Perhaps only rivaled by Montreal, Quebec City, San Francisco and perhaps Boston, it is a place where European tourists feel comfortable because it reminds them of the cities where they are from. To be sure, Toronto does not look like Siena or even Milan but its community based urban form and structure - particularly in the inner city - sends out messages to European visitors that signal familiarity... Alongside the European street languages there is the presence of storefronts and signs from other immigrant cultures from around the world. Toronto has three Chinatowns, strong East Indian and central Asian communities, a large Caribbean and Latin American as well as African immigrant culture. Canada's official policy of multiculturalism has reinforced the visibility of different ethnic groups who are both expected to be Canadian and to maintain the core of their culture.

● Roger Kell, *City on the Fence: Toronto in the 1990s*



If I were a traveler out of a Black Hole somewhere and had time only for a single metropolis before the rocket left again, I think I might well choose for my inspection the city of Toronto. There is no pretense that it is the most beautiful of towns, and it has hardly acquired the rich patina of antiquity, but in the last decades of the twentieth century it has become in many ways a microcosm of its time.

● Jan Morris, 1998

in the hierarchy

of world cities, Toronto can be seen as a secondary core-city, on the same level as Houston, Miami and San Francisco. Most importantly, what makes Toronto and the surrounding region distinct from these urban areas is its predominant role in the national economy and the financial system of a G7 country"

● Graham Todd, 1996

consequence of this primacy of Toronto's financial industry which gave the city world city status has been the continuing specialization of downtown space as mostly an office location. Both high wage employment and relatively low wage employment have increased while many of the middle level functions have been shifted to peripheral locations. In the late 1990s, the office space slump which had marked most of the decade, has subsided. Vacancy rates have plummeted to 5 percent, office rents have doubled in the downtown core between 1997 and 1998; and stalled projects being revived. In addition to concentrating the financial and related producer service industries, Toronto's downtown has increasingly become the preferred location of sports and entertainment facilities. Current discussions about Toronto's attempt to draw the 2008 Olympics to the city will further enhance the area's role as a sports and entertainment complex.

A boom in the condominium residential industry has led to a wave of loft conversion and new construction in the flanks of the downtown. While the world city economy begins to regroup spatially in the city's core, the global superstructures of transportation and communication are being expanded drastically. Two important aspects of the Toronto economy in and after the recession need to be mentioned to round out the picture. First, there is the phenomenon of jobless growth which means that while the economy is slowly picking up, it is not producing jobs at the rates common at previous upturns. This points to the increased significance of rationalization, computerization and automatization in the services and in manufacturing.

Secondly, in Southern Ontario in general, the pattern of job losses and gains has been quite contradictory across most sectors. While some manufacturing facilities in the consumer durables and automotive sector have been closing down, other, newer facilities have opened and particularly the regions auto and auto parts industry is booming. Both special characteristics of the Southern Ontario economy - jobless growth and double-faced recovery - underscore the fact that the recession of the early 1990s was a structural crisis in the composition and character of the regional economy.

● World City Toronto (excerpt from Gene Desfor and Roger Kell, *Contested and Polluted Terrain* (1998))

in the face

of dramatic deficit reductionism and "clear cutting" politics of the Tory government of Ontario under Mike Harris elected in 1995, Toronto has changed into a boiling hodge-podge of political grassroots activities. Mass demonstrations of university and public school students, child care workers, hospital employees, and civil servants peaked in October 1996 during the Metro Days of Action, a city wide general strike, and a rally with more than 200,000 people. The mobilization of thousands of individuals and many organizations, as the Metro Network for Social Justice, an umbrella organization of more than 100 groups in the social, labour, and environmental areas, was harnessed in a concerted fight over the governance of the city of Toronto. The announcement of the Tories' 'megacity' plans led immediately to the most effective and large scale political mobilizing campaigns in the recent history of Toronto. The suggested amalgamation was seen as disempowering of local communities and a threat to the success of Toronto's urbanism. The forced birth of the 'megacity' was seen as autocratic, politically motivated and undemocratic. In all six municipalities, and especially in the core City of Toronto, daily rallies took place from December 1996 to March 1997, mostly organized by the Citizens for Local Democracy (C4LD), which attracted more than one thousand people to its Monday night meetings. Demonstrations, presentations before the Legislative Assembly, and direct actions culminated on March 4, 1997 in a referendum organized by the individual municipalities and citizen groups. The opponents of the 'megacity' claimed landslide victory in all of the municipalities with a 75% average of rejecting the provincial government plans. The conservative government, however, refused to acknowledge the results of the referendum. On April 21, 1997 the majority of the Ontario Legislature passed the slightly changed bill, which created the new City of Toronto on January 1, 1998. In the wake of this mobilizing success, there is a window of opportunity to nurture and sustain new coalitions in spite of the defeat. The upheaval of 1997 has already left a lasting impression on the political landscape of the city as the formal political process loses support and legitimacy while informal political forms of civil society continuously spring up.

● Roger Kell, "Toronto in the 1990s: Dissociated Governance?" *Studies in Political Economy* (Summer 1998)

after

a one-day quasi-general strike The Metro Days of Action [in Toronto in October 1996] concluded with a mass demonstration of about 200,000 people: the biggest mass demonstration ever in Toronto ... Largely due to the mobilizations around the Metro Days of Action and the opposition to the Megacity, Toronto has gone through the largest and most intense period of movement mobilization of its history. These mobilizations signaled the return of mass politics to Toronto. Since the 1970s, Toronto has had a vibrant radical movement scene and a variegated constellation of urban reform and neighbourhood politics. Most of these forms of activism had been based on a relatively small number of activists concentrated in downtown Toronto, however. With a number of exceptions, most of the urban reform forces - middle-class resident organizations, women's groups, environmentalists, immigrant organizations, social justice groups etc. - had been focused on the old City of Toronto. And most radical activism in areas of anti-poverty and anti-racist politics was tied to restricted networks of activists connected through movement organizations, left-wing parties, information channels and university-based community radio stations. To some extent, mass mobilization and months of activism against the "Mega-city" has grown beyond these social, territorial and organizational boundaries to include not-yet mobilized residents and neighbourhoods beyond the City of Toronto. It remains to be seen whether the energies and potentials of recent waves of mobilization can combine in a new urban left that is capable of responding to the challenges of the millennium.

● Stefan Kipfer, "Urban Politics in the 1990s: Notes on Toronto", forthcoming in "Possible Urban Worlds", 1998.

panels, presentations & roundtables

monday

panel:

DiverseCity in a Global World: Praxis of Dissent

In the current round of globalization, cities are becoming more economically, socially and culturally diverse. The new kind of diversity found in urban regions also tends to be different from the social and spatial stratifications found before. New types of immigration, cultural differentiation, globalized labour markets, and other processes intertwine to make each city in the global world into a unique site of urban practices. Among these are the many dissenting voices who write alternative stories of globalization - in opposition to and critical of the master narrative told by global capital and their spokespeople. This panel will provide a stage for the praxis of dissent in European and North American cities.

● Organizers: Stefan Kipfer and Roger Keil

film:

The Truth Lies in Rostock

A documentary about racist riots against refugees in an East German city. The screening of this film will mark the 5th anniversary of this event and will serve as a reminder of the continuing threat of rightwing political success and neo-nazi violence in many parts of Europe. Co-Director/Producer Mark Saunders of Spectacle TV, a founding INURA member will be available for discussion after the screening.



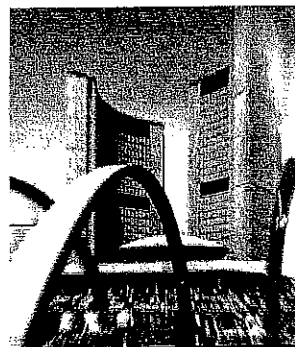
DiverseCity

mon • sept • 14 • 1998

opening session:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 - 9:15 | Welcome and Introduction |
| 9:15 - 10:45 | Panel Discussion: <i>DiverseCity in a Global World: The Praxis of Dissent</i> |
| 10:45 - 11:00 | Break |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | Presentation: <i>The City Region: European and North American Perspectives</i> |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:30 - 17:30 | Regional Bus Tour |
| 20:00 | Film: <i>The Truth Lies in Rostock</i> |

york university • keele campus



inura

programme

tues • sept • 15 • 1998

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 - 10:30 | Roundtable: <i>Homeless or Housed: Crossing the Threshold of Poverty, Discrimination and Exclusion</i> |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Break |
| 11:00 - 12:30 | Roundtable: <i>Immigrant and First Nations Experiences</i> |
| 12:30 - 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 - 17:30 | City Tours |
| 19:00 | Public Event - Panel Discussion: <i>Olympic Dreams - Urban Nightmares? Megaprojects and the Making of Cities</i> |

downtown toronto

weds • sept • 16 • 1998

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 - 10:30 | Roundtable: <i>DiverseCity and Urban Ecology</i> |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Break |
| 11:00 - 12:30 | Roundtable: <i>The Politics of Work and Employment at the Dawn of the Millennium</i> |
| 12:30 - 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 - 17:30 | City Tours |
| 18:00 | Closing Session |
| 21:00 | Party |

downtown toronto

monday

The City Region: European and North American Perspectives

Modernizing modes of regulation are kicking up loads of dust while helping promote the latest development boom across Toronto's edge centres. The new urban order can be glimpsed here through the example of Vaughan, where discourses of nature and urbanization have been taken-up both as an urban self-conception and tool of urban management. Indeed Vaughan's millennial urban plan can be considered as a prototype plan for neo-Fordist spatial practices in the Toronto region. Since Official Plan Amendment 400 (OPA 400) was in the loop of approvals prior to the institution of the NDPs legislation in March, 1996, provincial reforms over local planning did not apply to this plan. Thus, OPA 400s already streamlined version of planning and development reform, a regime of accumulation presciently cast for a post social democratic planning era, represents a benchmark for other rapidly urbanizing flexcentres.

Vaughan sees a correspondence of an ecosystem approach to some of the principles of new urbanism, such as the problematic approaches of transit oriented development and traditional neighbourhood development (Calthorpe: 1993; Krieger: 1991). Vaughan's machined derivation of an ecosystem approach, the policies and plans which are guiding the implementation of their neo-modernist urban villages, suggests a more likely range of practices: Garden City meets Levittown; Ford meets Calthorpe; Geddes meets Moses; Le Corbusier meets Duany; and Berg meets Chicago school.

- John Graham, 1997 (*Excerpts*)

Speakers: John Graham and Christian Schmid

tuesday

Immigrant and First Nations Experience

Major cities in Europe and North America are experiencing fundamental changes in their economic, social and demographic make-up as a result of migration, especially from non-traditional sources in the southern hemisphere. Modern day immigration has raised questions about the future make-up of the urban economy and the work-force, equity, social justice and political representation.

- Organizers: Mwarigha, Barbara Rahder

Homeless or Housed: Crossing the Threshold of Poverty, Discrimination and Exclusion

While major banks and transnational corporations report record profits, the numbers of people without housing or adequate shelter are on the rise. Governments actions have only exacerbated the problem as neo-conservative administrations privatize existing social housing and related services so that they can "get out of the housing business". The polarization of wealth and poverty have made conventional economic indicators, including "housing starts", irrelevant to millions of urban dwellers. Booming economies have not improved accessibility to appropriate accommodation for large segments of increasingly diverse urban populations. This is not a simple matter of insufficient housing supply, nor is poverty alone the cause of homelessness. Housing design is often aimed at specific target populations excluding all others, and many groups experience discrimination from landlords and management companies.

Roundtable participants will draw on their varied experiences to discuss the problems of providing access to housing in the late twentieth century. They will discuss how poverty, discrimination and exclusion have affected the production of and access to housing in different regulatory contexts and diverse cultures, as well as sharing strategies for overcoming these barriers to accommodation. Questions that will be posed include: What is homelessness and how do definitions differ between cultures? What, besides bricks and mortar, is needed in the provision of housing for diverse populations? What kind of support should the state provide for the production of affordable housing? What actions should be taken to remove the barriers of poverty, discrimination and exclusion?

- Organizers: Ute Lehrer and Richard Milgrom

panel:



Olympic Dreams - Urban Nightmares?

Megaprojects and the Making of Cities. Toronto is doing it again - others have done it before: to compete to be the host city of the Olympic Games. Toronto lost out to Atlanta 1996 in the 1990 competition, and has now launched a campaign to be the Olympic city in 2008. This decision by the city's economic and political elites has already engendered much public debate. More debate is needed. On one side are the Olympic proponents led by former mayor David Crombie; on the other side are the critics and opponents organized in the Bread Not Circuses coalition (who some credit with the city's failure to win the bid in 1990). Our panel will look at Toronto's Olympic debate through the prism of other cities' experiences with megaprojects - some Olympic, some not. Will Olympic dreams spell urban nightmares for the city's residents?

● Organizers: Roger Keil and Stefan Kipfer

wednesday

DiverseCity and Urban Ecology

Urban ecological planning and politics have recently had divergent paths of development in Europe and America. In Europe, strong green parties at the local level and urban environmental movements have created a strong awareness around ecological issues and have been able to influence the political agendas. Traditional approaches to green cities which dealt with parks, open spaces and the greening of the built environment have been complemented since the 1970s by radical squatter movements, anti-airport struggles, anti-nuclear activism, local environmental networks etc. In many European cities, the Local Agenda 21 process has created openings for new kinds of action by both citizens and local governments. In the Americas, the most exciting new movements around urban ecology have been in the field of environmental justice. From Curitiba, Brazil to Los Angeles and Toronto, citizens have organized around urban ecological issues in terms of social justice and have taken a stand against environmental racism and other forms of oppression linked to environmental injustice. This panel hopes to create a conversation among these diverse experiences of urban ecology both strategically and analytically.

● Organizers: Franz Hartmann and Roger Keil

wednesday

**The Politics of Work and Employment
at the Dawn of the Millennium**

roundtable:

In the advanced capitalist world, economic restructuring has given rise to several worrisome trends with respect to work and employment relations. Some argue that we are in the midst of an 'end of work' phase as capitalists reorganize the labour process and revolutionize the forces of production via new technologies in order to ensure profit. The result is growing unemployment and stagnant economic growth incapable of absorbing an expanding reserve army of labour. Others suggest that we have reached a 'new reality' entailing 'good' jobs for few and 'poor' jobs for many in a restructured labour market increasingly dominated by private service industries. Finally, still others recognize the limitations of capital in employment growth today and assert the need for a 'post-work' programme which would include a combination of work-time reduction, alternative forms of production and free time liberated from the tyranny of commodification. From their varied experiences in Toronto and elsewhere, activists and researchers will suggest various responses to the current realities of work and employment in the advanced capitalist world. Roundtable participants will also connect the politics of work and production to other themes of the conference - immigration, marginalization and urban ecology. The following are some of the questions to be addressed: What are the key processes and dynamics that shape the restructuring of workplaces and labour markets at the end of the millennium? What is distinct about the restructuring of Toronto's economy and what can we learn from experiences in other city economies? How are labour unions re-inventing themselves to deal with these changes? What forms is this re-invention taking? What role are progressive social movements playing in global city politics relating to work and employment? How can strategies of work-time reduction combat mass unemployment? To what extent does the 'third sector' (community and labour controlled cooperative enterprises) represent an alternative to of structural unemployment, the contemporary restructuring of work, and capitalist forms of production?

● Organizers: Luis Aguiar and Stefan Kipfer

tuesday

Toronto's Western Inner City Neighbourhoods

The residential neighbourhoods east and west of Toronto's central business district have had distinct processes of change in recent decades. East of the core, the Don District experienced considerable shifts of physical form and social composition as a consequence of highrise developments and public-housing projects built in the 1960s and 1960s and extensive gentrification in the 1970s and 1980s. In contrast, neighbourhoods west of the core in the Spadina District have generally experienced more gradual processes of change. In part, this accrued to a shift of orientation in Toronto City politics in the early 1970s toward principles of sustaining older neighbourhoods; municipal plans and corporate proposals for substantial redevelopments similar to those in the Don District were shelved. The area's stability was also strengthened by its strong "ethnic" communities. The walk visits two Spadina neighbourhoods Southeast Spadina and Kensington. It then continues south into King-Spadina, an area formerly dominated by industry and warehousing that is lately being adapted to Toronto's "postindustrial" economy.

- Organizer and guide: Jon Caulfield

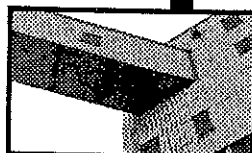
Industrial Restructuring and the Politics of Environmental Justice

This tour introduces participants to processes of industrial restructuring. These processes are intimately tied to issues of immigration, reproduction and urban ecology. More concretely, tour sites will include:

- deindustrialized zones and polluted areas
- burgeoning installations of the film industry in what has become to be called "Hollywood North"
- the port industrial district, and
- the new immigrant consumption spaces of Chinatown East.

Geographically, this tour will cover sites in the area immediately east of the Don River, between the lakeshore (and the Toronto portlands) and Danforth Avenue. Politically, this tour will feature two responses to industrial restructuring. First, activists will describe how deindustrialization and soil pollution on former industrial lands became articulated as issues of environmental justice. Second, discussions will focus on attempts to stem deindustrialization and spur reindustrialization through the Toronto Economic Development Corporation, a micro-corporatist entity connected to the City of Toronto.

- Organizers: Pino Di Mascio, Stefan Kipfer, John Graham



tues

weds

tours

Food (In)Security in the City

This tour will provide participants with a framework for understanding the extent, causes, and diverse organized responses to household food insecurity in Toronto. The tour will commence at Daily Bread Food Bank with a discussion of the main dimensions of the problem, and the evolution of the food bank response to hunger and food insecurity. The tour will then proceed to a community garden in the city, where participants will have an opportunity to dialogue with members of a local community about their struggles for food security. The tour will end at the Field to Table warehouse, where representatives of FoodShare, Field to Table, and the Afri-Can Food Basket will share their experiences on community-based responses to food insecurity in an ethno-culturally diverse environment.

- Organizer and guide: Winston Husbands

Urban Change and Housing Struggles in Downtown East

This tour will centre on one of the main themes of DiverseCity: reproduction and housing. It will also touch on issues of immigration and racism. Long-standing activists will introduce tour participants to a range of housing forms that typify key moments in the shift from the "Fordist City" to the "Global City". More specifically, the tour will highlight

(1) (increasingly racialized) public housing and urban renewal projects built in the 1950s and 1960s;

(2) cooperative housing projects and gentrified districts developed since the 1970s; and

(3) loft living and marginal squatting in former industrial zones deregulated in the 1990s.

The sites of this tour are located in the area bounded by Yonge Street and the Central Business District, the lakeshore, the Don River and Bloor Street. Discussion along the tour will emphasize the role of resistance and politics in the process of urban restructuring.

- Organizers and guides: John Graham, Stefan Kipfer, Pino Di Mascio

native toronto

"The Great Indian Bus Tour of Toronto"

The concrete streets and highrises of Toronto obscure with virtual completeness the vast First Nations history of this area. "Toronto" is popularly interpreted as meaning "the Meeting Place" and indeed this area of the north shore of Lake Ontario is a very significant place of political and cultural activity in Aboriginal history, from well prior to European occupation until the present. Join us in this three-hour tour of the city hosted by First Nation historian Rodney Bobiwash and learn about the very rich and diverse Aboriginal history of Toronto.

ravine toronto

This is a bicycle tour through the Don Valley and Toronto's eastern ravines. It is meant to bring into focus some of the landscape and ecological features of Toronto and to highlight some of its metabolic (and bucolic) problematics (including its water economy). We will visit the lower Don River, the Chester Springs Marsh, Taylor Creek Park, the Beaches Neighbourhood, the R.C. Harris Water Filtration Plant, the Boardwalk and will end at a local outdoor cafe or pub.

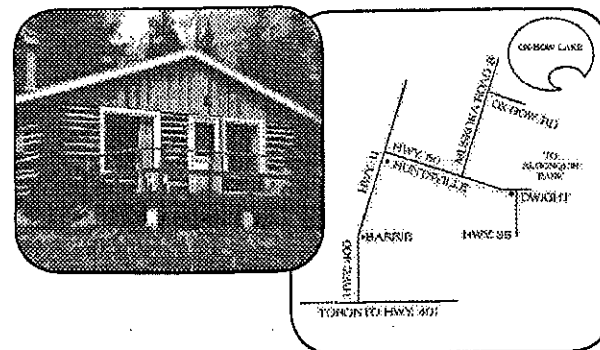
● Organizers: Roger Keil and Franz Hartmann



the retreat

Ox-Bow Lodge, Huntsville, Ontario
Thur Sept 17 to Sun Sept 20, 1998

The second part of the meeting is the traditional INURA Retreat. We have arranged to spend 3 days in a cottage style resort on a lake north of Toronto. During the retreat, INURA members will discuss particular projects and actions in which we have been involved, and attempt to further the objectives of the network.



the lodge

Ox-Bow lodge is a convenient 2-1/2 bus ride north of Toronto. The lodge is classic Ontario wilderness. It offers a safe sandy beach, excellent fishing, 100 acres of trails, guest lounge, hot tub, shuffleboard and more. Nearby is Algonquin Park, 4 golf courses, horseback riding, pioneer village and numerous local artisans.

The lodge emphasizes privacy, with most accommodation consisting of well-spaced individual cottages. The original rustic log cottages remain scattered along the waters edge. These have been complimented with a series of new cottages with extra amenities. All accommodations feature fireplaces, private bathrooms, decks and wonderful views of the lake. Linen and towel is provided and changed as required. Daily maid service can be provided for a nominal extra charge.

information

Flights:

If you would like to compare prices on flights booked from Canada to those arranged from within from your home country, send an email message to Sheila or Jackie at york@senatetravel.ca.

Accommodations:

Toronto offers a wide variety of accommodations including hostels, bed & breakfasts and hotels. For some of the possibilities available, visit our web site at www.yorku.ca/faculty/fes/seminars/inura.htm.

Toronto:

For more information on Toronto and some of the attractions which you may want to visit while in the area, we suggest you look at the following web sites: www.toronto.com www.thestar.com www.globeandmail.ca

Our Web Site:

The INURA Toronto web site will be updated frequently as information on the conference and other useful material becomes available. (www.yorku.ca/faculty/fes/seminars/inura.htm)

Toronto INURA Committee:

Luis Aguiar, Julie Dale, Gene Desfor, Winston Husbands, Roger Keil, Stefan Kipfer, Ute Lehrer, Mwarigha, Barbara Rahder

With the help of:

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current events

Government asks Ravers for advice on policy

Once they were the scourge of the establishment, but now the Exodus Collective of squatters and free-party organizers is preparing to receive a government delegation.

Member's of New Labour's pet project, the Social Exclusion Unit, will see for themselves this Thursday how a group of around 70 long-term unemployed people from Luton, a town ravaged by joblessness and heroin addiction, have created a flourishing self-help community on its outskirts.

The Unit will tour HAZ Manor, a once derelict hospice renovated by the collective and now recognised as a housing association for 30 people, and neighbouring Long Meadow Community Free Farm.

Exodus' battles against officialdom in the five years since they formed have led to arson attacks against them, along with a wrongful murder charge against one member, numerous raids and allegations of drug planting by police.

But the tide of opinion began to turn last year when churchman Malcolm Nobbs praised the collective for 'doing God's work'. Exodus spokesman Glen Jenkins confessed he was unused to visits from the Cabinet office to the community.

But he thinks the two sides could work together well: "What the Social Exclusion Unit is about and what we are doing go hand in glove. We're their dream project." Jenkins will be outlining how Exodus could support 150 jobs through a "welfare to meaningful work" programme, if the collective's dream to convert a derelict building in a Luton industrial estate finally beats local council opposition.

● Jane Cassidy, "The Big Issue" No. 283, (May 11-17, 1998)