

Landscape factors of sustainable food innovation: The case of Toronto and Local Food Plus



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Part 1: Local Food Plus and “infrastructure of the middle”



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Local Food Plus Certification

- Employ sustainable production systems
- Provide healthy and humane care of livestock
- Provide safe and fair working conditions
- Protect and enhance wildlife and biodiversity
- Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gases



The LFP Certification Seal



Institutional Procurement

- Launched in 2006 at the University of Toronto, St. George campus
- U of T became the first Canadian university to make a contractual commitment to purchase sustainable and local food as a percentage of cost of food purchased for specific residence cafeterias



Anchor institutions



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The multifunctionality of food

- Without a multifunctional perspective, university food has been an “ancillary service”.
- Multifunctionality recognizes that food (not just agriculture) can address health, economic, environmental, social, cultural and reputational goals of the university.



“Infrastructure of the middle”: An alternative to “agri-chains” for territorialized food systems

- An under-appreciation of the distances and obstacles inherent in “farm to table” “field to fork” or “farm to school”
- The hard and soft infrastructure that is big enough to supply large orders from institutions, but not so big as to be locked into the global industrial food system. This includes the aggregators, processors, distributors, warehouses and roads, but also the individual champions, civil society actors and institutional habits that create a new “nexus of practice” for sustainable local food



“Infrastructure of the middle”



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Sept 2016: U of T takes over its own foodservice



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Conclusion

- The missing link in food chains that can support a scaling up and out of local and sustainable food systems is not the ability of farmers to produce the food, but rather the weakness of the connective tissue – processors, distributors, aggregators, connectors, advocates, marketers and caterers – to manage the sustainability transition. This connective tissue can be collectively referred to as “infrastructure of the middle”.



“Infrastructure of the middle” changes the “landscape”



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Part 2: Toronto



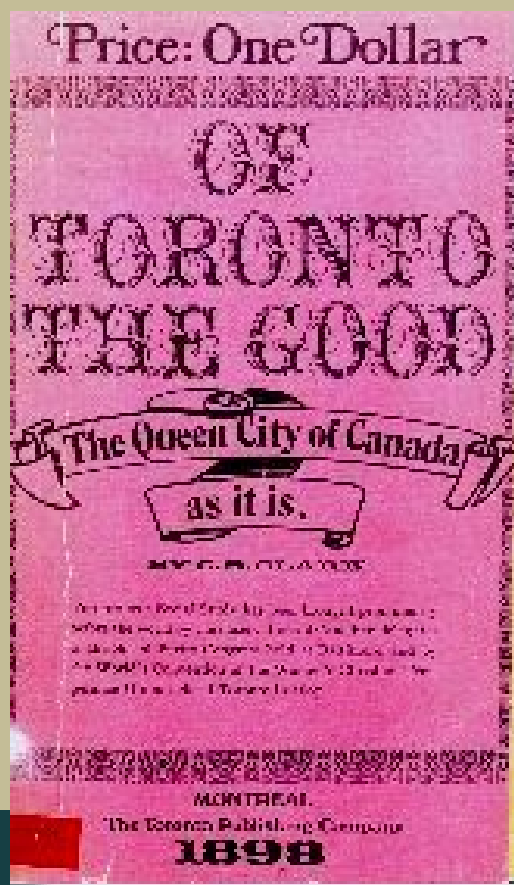
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A city of ravines



Social Gospel



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A city of villages



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Social Liberalism



Red Toryism



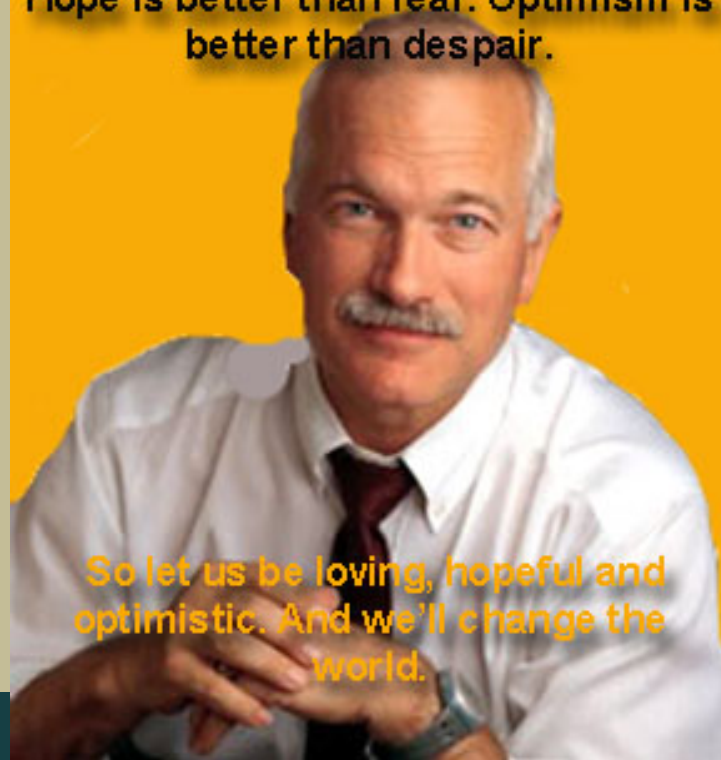
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Proposition, not opposition



My friends, love is better than anger.
Hope is better than fear. Optimism is
better than despair.



So let us be loving, hopeful and
optimistic. And we'll change the
world.



Social unionism



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Jane's Walks



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Health promotion

Toronto's Medical Officer of Health



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Creative economy



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Multiculturalism



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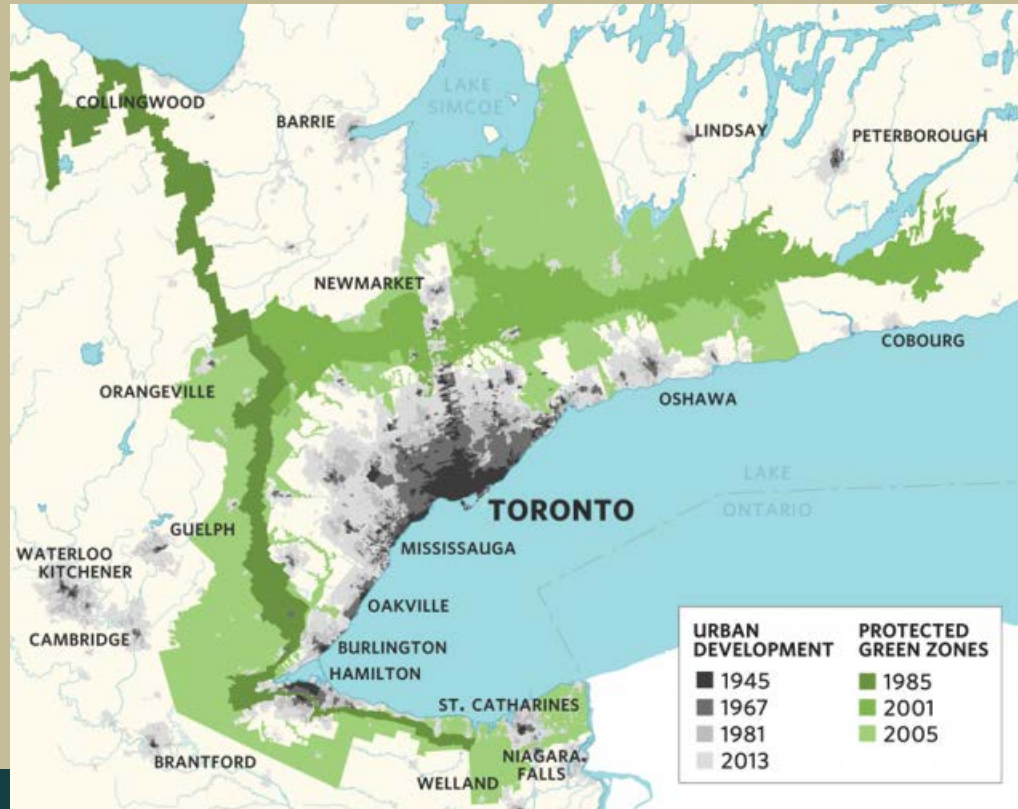
Green infrastructure



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A territorial food system



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