Mapping Historical Mississauga

Uncovering the city’s changing landscapes online using historical maps and digital data

Andrew Nicholson, University of Toronto Mississauga
Kara Handren, Scholars Portal
Overview

● Introductions
  ○ The City of Mississauga
  ○ The Scholars Portal GeoPortal

● Datasets
  ○ Topographic Maps (1909-1977)
  ○ Aerial Imagery (1944-present)
  ○ Vector Data (2016-present)

● Case Studies
  ○ Rural to Urban Transformation
  ○ The Lakeview Generating Station ie. “Four Sisters”
Mississauga
A case study of post-WWII urban change

- 1951: a loose rural grouping of villages and hamlets known
  - population 33,000
  - 1968: becomes the “Town of Mississauga”
    - Population 107,000
  - 1974: incorporated as a city in 1974
    - Population 250,000

- 2018
  - Current population of over 700,000
  - The 6th largest city in Canada
The Scholars GeoPortal

The Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) is a consortium of Ontario’s 21 university libraries.

Scholars Portal is OCUL’s technical infrastructure. It supports, preserves and provides access to various information resources and services.

Scholars GeoPortal is a geospatial data discovery tool/portal, that is supported by Scholars Portal.

- [http://geo.scholarsportal.info/](http://geo.scholarsportal.info/)
Topographical Maps

- Georeferenced NTS map sheets, 1:63,360 and 1:25,000 series
  - Over 20 sheets, 1909 - 1974
Imagery / Air Photos

- Georeferenced air photos / imagery
  - 1944 - 2017
Vector Data

- Federal, provincial and municipal level
  - Over 200 datasets
  - Examples of data include:
    - Transit lines
    - Utilities
    - Pedestrian trail networks
    - Schools
    - Building age data
    - Contour lines
    - Census data
Case Studies
Rural to Urban Transformation

- The Geoportal allows students to study change with a focus on neighbourhoods and the impacts of new roads, highways, railways, public transit routes, etc.
Highway 2 - Lakeshore
Port Credit is centre of map
With Mississauga incorporated as a city in the mid-1970s, planners soon began to plan for new developments, especially homes.
Development further west with extension of Highway 403 West Mississauga in 1995. The extension has not yet been built.
Development further west with extension of Highway 403
West Mississauga in 1999
The extension is bottom left
Development further west with extension of Highway 403. West Mississauga in 2005. Rapid growth over the 5 years after the extension was built.
Demo/Layout #2

Development further north after the building of Square One Shopping Centre Mall constructed in 1973. Image as of 1969.
Demo/Layout #2

Development further north after building of Square One Shopping Centre
Mall constructed in 1973. Image as of 1975 (mall is bottom right)
Demo/Layout #2

Development further north after building of Square One Shopping Centre Mall constructed in 1973. Image as of 1985 (mall is bottom right)
Development further north after building of Square One Shopping Centre
Mall constructed in 1973. Image as of 1995 (mall is bottom right)
Demo/Layout #2

Development further north after building of Square One Shopping Centre
Mall constructed in 1973. Image as of 2005 (mall is bottom right)
The Lakeview Generation Station ie. “Four Sisters”

- Opened June 20th, 1962
- Was the largest coal-fired station in the world
- 143 metre high stacks, could be seen for miles

- Closed April 30, 2005
- Land is now slated for redevelopment as a residential neighbourhood, with community parks and retail centres

- Had a huge impact on the character of the surrounding landscape and views
Toronto Area / Port Credit, Ontario. 1:25,000. Map Sheet 030M12A, ed. 1, 1961
Port Credit, Ontario. 1:25,000. Map Sheet 030M12A &030M11D, ed. 3, 1974
Postscript....

After years of remediation and planning debates, Lakeview was sold in March 2018 by the province to developers for a mixed use site.
