

# Good Neighbourhoods Crazy Politics And The Invention Of Toronto

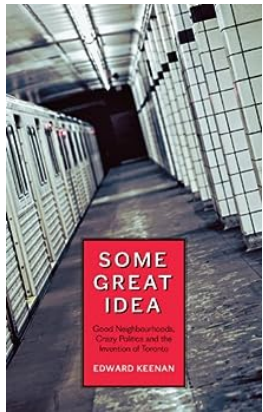


When one thinks of Toronto, the image of its iconic skyline and bustling streets often come to mind. With its culturally diverse population and thriving economy, Toronto is considered one of the most cosmopolitan cities in North America. But how did this metropolis come into existence? The history of Toronto is a tale of good neighbourhoods, crazy politics, and the invention of a city that embodies the Canadian spirit.

## **The Early Years and the Founding**

Long before Toronto became the bustling city it is today, the area was inhabited by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. The Toronto region was first

encountered by European explorers in the 17th century, leading to the establishment of several French and British settlements. However, it wasn't until 1793 that the town of York was officially founded.



## Some Great Idea: Good Neighbourhoods, Crazy Politics and the Invention of Toronto

by Edward Keenan (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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The settlement faced numerous challenges, from conflicts with Indigenous populations to political unrest. In 1834, the town of York changed its name to Toronto, a term derived from the Indigenous word "Tkaronto," meaning "where there are trees standing in water." This name change was a small part of a larger transformation that was about to take place.

### The City Takes Shape

As Toronto continued to grow, neighborhoods began to form, each with its unique character and charm. Areas such as The Annex, Cabbagetown, and Kensington Market became vibrant centers of culture and community. These neighborhoods

played a crucial role in shaping the identity of the city, providing a sense of belonging to its residents.

However, Toronto's politics during the late 19th and early 20th centuries were far from dull. Mayoral scandals, protests, and disputes were common occurrences, often making headlines across the country. One of the most infamous political battles was the fight between the conservative "Good Government Movement" and the left-leaning "Ontario Municipal Board."

## **Toronto's Rise to Prominence**

Despite the political turmoil, Toronto continued to grow and establish itself as a significant economic and cultural hub. The completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1886 played a vital role in connecting the city with the rest of the country, allowing for increased trade and development.

During the 20th century, Toronto experienced rapid growth, attracting immigrants from all corners of the world. This influx of diverse cultures brought an explosion of culinary experiences, art movements, and musical influences to the city. Toronto became a melting pot of traditions and ideas, further cementing its reputation as a vibrant global metropolis.

## **The Modern Toronto**

Today, Toronto continues to evolve and reinvent itself. The city's skyline is ever-changing, with new skyscrapers adding to its impressive architectural landscape. The neighborhoods that once defined Toronto are still vibrant, albeit with a modern twist.

The city's politics, too, have seen significant transformations. Toronto is now known for its progressive policies, diverse representation, and a commitment to

sustainability. The city's leadership understands the importance of maintaining good neighborhoods while also addressing the challenges surrounding issues such as affordable housing and transportation.

## **The Invention of Toronto**

In many ways, Toronto's journey can be seen as an "invention." It is an invention of good neighborhoods that foster a sense of belonging, an invention of a political landscape that oscillates between chaos and unity, and an invention of a city that continues to adapt and embrace change.

As you walk the streets of Toronto, you can feel the energy and creativity that permeates the city. From its rich history to its thriving present, Toronto is truly a place of endless possibilities, an invention that embodies the spirit of a nation.

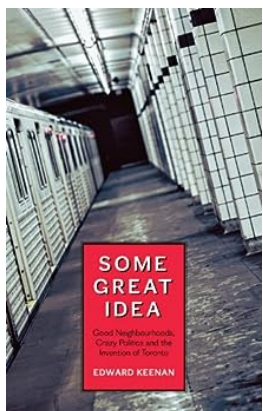


Good neighborhoods, crazy politics, and the invention of Toronto have shaped the city into what it is today. From its humble beginnings as a small settlement to

its status as a global metropolis, Toronto's journey is one of resilience, diversity, and endless potential.

As the city continues to evolve, it is important to remember and appreciate its rich history. The neighborhoods that make up Toronto play a crucial role in creating a sense of community and belonging, while its politics offer a constant reminder of the power of democracy and civic engagement.

So next time you find yourself strolling through the streets of Toronto, take a moment to marvel at the city's invention, and remember the good neighborhoods, crazy politics, and the people who have contributed to the rise of this extraordinary metropolis.



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Since 2010, Toronto's headlines have been consumed by the outrageous personal foibles and government-slashing, anti-urbanist policies of Mayor Rob

Ford. But the heated debate at City Hall has obscured a bigger, decade-long narrative of Toronto's ascendance as a mature global city. Some Great Idea traces how post-amalgamation, and under three very different mayors, Toronto managed to so quickly oscillate from one extreme to another, and how the city might proceed from here. Some Great Idea includes behind-the-scenes tales from the Miller and Ford campaigns, and explores recent turning points like the city's core service review and the mayor's conflict-of-interest trial. Through personal history, keen reportage and revelatory analysis, it shows how the fundamental principles of diversity and democracy that have made Toronto such a vibrant, dynamic 21st-century city can produce an unlikely politician like Ford. And how those same principles have vividly and repeatedly insisted that such politicians are only part of a larger, messier and more productive urban politics.

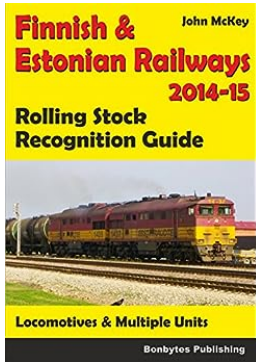
This is a story about both Toronto's past and present, how the city has relentlessly and collaboratively reinvented itself. But it's also a story about Toronto's future, and what that future might mean for all global cities. This is a story that says you can fight city hall.

Edward Keenan serves as senior editor and lead columnist at The Grid magazine in Toronto, Ontario. An eight-time finalist at the National Magazine Awards, he has written for and edited at Eye Weekly, Spacing magazine, and The Walrus.



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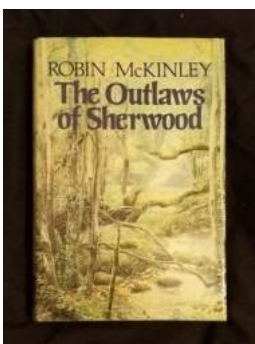
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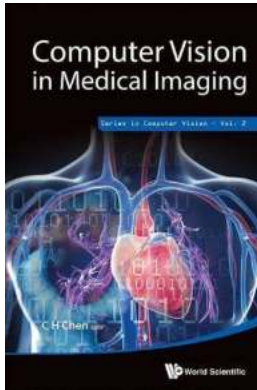
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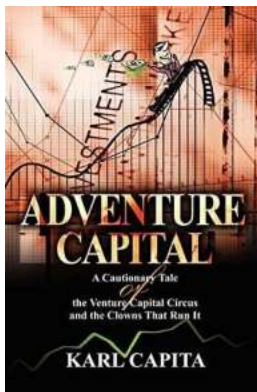
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