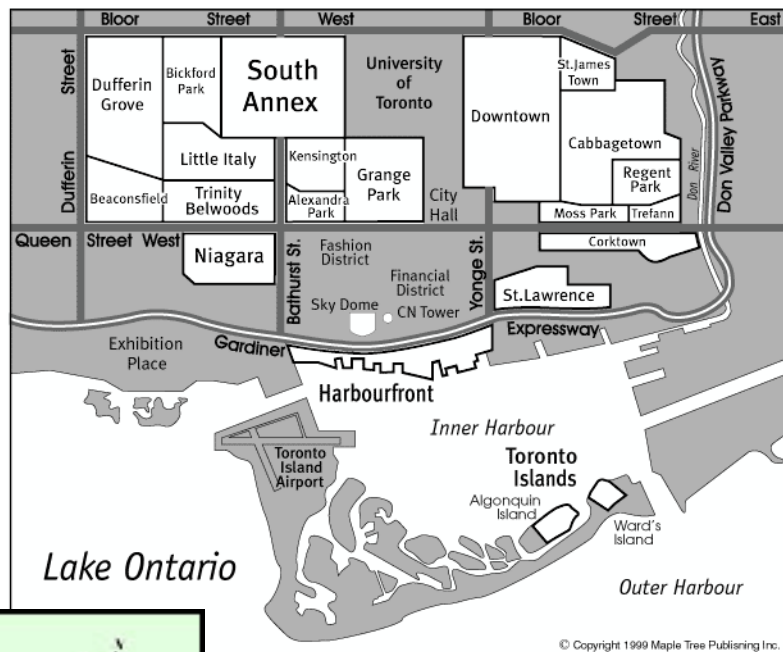


E3 TARGET COMMUNITY PROFILE SUMMARY

a) Define the proposed location (area, town, inner-city, suburb, rural, etc):

North St. James Town is located in Central Toronto. The boundaries of this inner-city community are defined by Bloor Street East to the north, Parliament Street to the east, Wellesley Street to the south, and Jarvis Street to the west. South St. James Town has been more or less appropriated by Cabbagetown.



b) Population trends & projections (square kilometreage, population density, etc)

Approximately 18,500 people reside in this area of approximately 32 acres (2001 Census Data).

St. James Town is presently considered a 'high turnover' community, with a 62% rate of change in the population every 5 years (1996 Census Data). Although the community features almost 7000 rental units, no new housing has been added to accommodate the 23% increase over the last fifteen years.

St. James Town was originally conceived as a haven for the upwardly mobile couple without children.

"This neighbourhood was not originally intended to house children. In fact, when the high-rise buildings first replaced the Victorian houses, it was against the law for children to live in St. James Town. Perhaps, this explains why city planners did not originally see the need for children's resources such as parks, playgrounds or a local daycare centre." (Berry et. al, University of Toronto, unpublished).

Children and youth currently comprise almost 30% of the population. As families continue to move through the vicinity, this figure is not expected to decline.

Official census numbers can be deceiving, as the population of transitional immigrant communities, such as St. James Town, is typically much higher than reported. In reality, many units represent multi-family homes instead of single-family dwellings. This arrangement contravenes lease agreements, and therefore is not reported accurately to Census Canada. The suggested realistic population in St. James Town is between 21,000 and 27,000.

c) Age distribution

<i>Age group</i>	1996		2001		<i>% Change</i>	<i>Toronto %</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>		
Total	17,500	100%	18,570	100%	6.1%	
Children 0-14	2,975	17%	3,325	17.9%	11.8%	17.5%
Youth 15-24	1,845	10.5%	2,200	11.8%	19.2%	12.4%
Working 25-64	1,1115	63.5%	11,715	63.1%	5.4%	56.5%
Seniors 65+	1,555	8.9%	1,365	7.4%	-12.2%	13.6%
Females	8,850	50.6%	9175	49.4%	3.7%	51.8%
Males	8,645	49.4%	9395	50.6%	8.7%	48.2%

(*North St. Jamestown Social Profile #1*, Toronto Community & Neighbourhood Services, City of Toronto, 2003.)

d) Typical family unit structure

According to 2001 Census data, the majority (51%) of households in St. James Town are non-family. This could reflect the large number of students who reside in the area due to lower rents and proximity to a number of colleges and universities. Single-family households reflect 47% of the population, while multiple-family units comprise 2% of total population. Between the 1996 and 2001 Census, there was a 5.4% increase in the number of single family units, and a 5.5% decrease in the number of non-family units (*North St. Jamestown Social Profile #1*, Toronto Community & Neighbourhood Services, City of Toronto, 2003.).

e) Predominant language (by percentage)

The predominant home language is English (35.97%). However, 28.53% of the population claims neither English nor French as their home language. Following are the top ten non-official language groups in St. James Town (as a percentage of the total population);

Tamil (6.14%)

Chinese (3.68%)

Tagalog (Filipino) (3.62%)

Korean (2.89%)

Urdu (1.41%)

Bengali (1.3%)

Persian (Farsi) (0.95%)

Russian (0.95%)

Spanish (0.46%)

Serbian (0.32%)

Many of the above listed language groups claim multiple language facility.

f) Ethnic composition (by percentage)

As St. James Town possesses a high concentration of immigrants, two sets of statistics are needed to adequately answer the question of ethnic composition.

The first table identifies ethnic origins of Census respondents. The response includes both those who reported single and multiple origin, and therefore may be slightly inflated.

<i>Top 10 Ethnic Origins</i>	<i>Total Responses</i>	<i>% of Total Population</i>
Filipino	3,815	20.6
Canadian	1,720	9.3
Chinese	1,360	7.4
Sri Lankan	1,350	7.3
East Indian	1,310	7.1
English	1,250	6.8
Korean	880	4.8
Scottish	805	4.4
Irish	780	4.2
French	610	3.3

(North St. Jamestown Social Profile #2, Toronto Community & Neighbourhood Services, City of Toronto, 2003.)

The second table reflects the top ten recent immigrants from 2001 Census Data. These numbers represent people who have moved into the area since the 1996 Census.

<i>Group</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of Total Population</i>
Philippines	1,230	6.6
Sri Lanka	670	3.6
China	485	2.6
Pakistan	465	2.5
Korea	275	1.5
Bangladesh	200	1.1
India	180	0.97
Russian Federation	155	0.84
Romania	90	0.48
Yugoslavia	80	0.43

(*North St. Jamestown Social Profile #2*, Toronto Community & Neighbourhood Services, City of Toronto, 2003.)

g) Socio-economic profile (income spread, primary industry, blue collar/white collar mix, type of housing, etc)

Currently the Canadian national average poverty rate is a spatial measure, stating that 13% of a population in a given neighbourhood in Canada lives under the pre-tax Low Income Cut Off (LICO) for that area. St. James Town has been identified in studies as having a ‘very high’ poverty rate, with 43% of its population falling beneath the pre-tax LICO. The LICO minimum sustainable wage for Toronto is currently \$36,247 for a two parent, two child household. (*Poverty by Postal Code*, United Way of Toronto, 2004). The ‘very high’ designation is given only to those areas in which 40% or more of the population lives in objective poverty.

St. James Town’s high concentration of immigrants further amplifies the disparity between poverty and non-poverty. Between 1991 and 2001, there was a 125% increase in the number of poor immigrant families in Toronto, as opposed to only a 13% increase in Canadian-born poverty rate. (*Poverty by Postal Code*, United Way of Toronto, 2004).

Despite the objective measure of poverty in the area, St. James Town has a relatively high proportion of people who have obtained a bachelor’s degree, both immigrants with post-secondary education in their home countries and post-graduate students currently living in the area. The level of education is almost identical to that within the Toronto CMA (Census Metropolitan Area). Thus, it is not surprising that the community has only a 12.4% rate of unemployment, which although higher than Toronto CMA, is lower than some other low-income neighbourhoods in Toronto such as Warden Woods and Yorkwoods. However, the very high level poverty indicator becomes justified when the male lone parent family income is revealed at only \$19,288 per annum, one of the lowest in the city (Berry et. al, University of Toronto, unpublished). Many seem to hold jobs, but wages are much lower than required to survive. Average and median incomes are also low, suggesting a concentration in poverty. The community also has higher welfare rates than the Toronto CMA.

The three most common occupations in the Toronto CMA are sales and services; business, finance and administration; and trades, transport and equipment. Alternately, St. James Town residents tend to work in sales and services, as well as health care. There are a number of hospital and health facilities in close proximity to the area, which may explain the change. (Berry et. al, University of Toronto, unpublished).

As of 2004, 98% of households in St. James Town rented their dwellings. 93.7% of the total structures in the area are apartment buildings with more than five stories. There are 18 high rise apartment buildings in St. James Town, fourteen are privately owned, while four are owned by the Metro Toronto Housing Authority. The fourteen private buildings offer rents within 10% of typical market rates, making them far over-priced considering relative income levels. Many of the buildings have fallen into disrepute with the City, being considered “unsafe” and run-down” with overflowing garbage disposals, faulty electrical and plumbing, and pest infestations. As previously stated, the community lacks green space and park areas which would make the environment more amenable towards families with children. (Berry et. al, University of Toronto, unpublished).

b) Predominant religious affiliation (by percentage)

Religious affiliation reflects the three major immigrant groups in the area, Filipino, Chinese and Sri Lankan (Tamil). There is a small Christian population within the area as well, mostly practising the Roman Catholic faith. The evangelical presence in the area is negligible.

At least 80% of Filipinos belong to the Roman Catholic faith. Approximately 15% are Muslim. Buddhism and Christianity are also practised. (*Diversity Watch*, “*Group Backgrounds, Filipino*”, Ryerson University School of Journalism)

Although China is officially atheist, many of Chinese descent are Buddhist or Christian. (*Diversity Watch*, “*Group Backgrounds, Chinese*”, Ryerson University School of Journalism)

Sri Lankan Populations reflect religious divisions of 70% Buddhist, 15% Hindu, 8% Christian and 7% Muslim. (*The World Factbook*, CIA, 2005)

i) Other churches currently operating

- a. *Our Lady of Lourdes* – Roman Catholic (Sherbourne and Wellesley) In addition to regular services, the church provides immigrant re-settlement support, legal assistance, housing initiatives a loan fund and a food bank.
- b. *St. James Town Community Church* – Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (Parliament). The church has two Sunday services, one for the Caribbean population and one for the Tamil demographic.
- c. *St. Paul’s Anglican Church* – Anglican (Bloor). Although the church is conservative, it does release its facilities for use by Toronto City Mission and other service providers.
- d. *St. Simon the Apostle* – Anglican (Bloor). The church provides overnight shelter and meals for the homeless. The building is also rented out to other organizations.
- e. *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church* – Sherbourne and Bloor). The church has made inroads with the Chinese population by offering ESL Bible studies.
- f. Hindu Temples - Hindi
- g. Mosque - Muslim

j) Key community groups (welfare, sporting, cultural, education, etc)

- a. *Cabbagetown Youth Centre* has built unique joint ventures in programming by bringing together city recreation, city health, the Board of Education and numerous community, and non-profit organizations. The centre offers Drug Prevention Programs, Family Literacy, Hearing, Vision and Speech Programs, ESL, Computer Training, Job Readiness & Search, Micro Business Support, Children’s and Youth Recreational Programs.
- b. *Central Neighbourhood House* is an inner-city community centre that has been serving people in Toronto since 1911. Programming for children and youth include Tutoring, Day Camps, a Recreational Drop-in for Youth, Youth Connection, Arts Initiative. Day Care is licensed to

provide care ranging in age from newborn to five years. Home Support provides in-home, social and voluntary services to older adults, adults with disabilities, and people with acute and chronic illnesses living in the Toronto East community. Program areas include Home Help/ Homemaking, Volunteer Program, and Stroke Recovery Club. Community Support programs include: Adult Drop-in, Voice Mail, Community Economic Development and Employment Services, and Women's Programs

- c. *Community Connection* provides information and referral on a wide range of community, social services, health and government programs. Specialized information and referral helpline for persons experiencing homelessness. Services include befriending, information on shelter, food, addictions and employment
- d. *Clear Language and Design* (CLAD) is a public education program of East End Literacy, a non-profit organization that helps adults learn to read and write and educates the public about literacy issues. CLAD provides editing, writing, training, and consulting on a fee for service basis.
- e. *Growing Together* is a community-based model of prevention and early intervention programs designed to enhance the social, emotional and cognitive development of young children who live in families that are struggling on many fronts. The St. Jamestown site adapts to the specific needs of its community, providing specialized services for single parents, recent immigrants and isolated families. It is a multidisciplinary approach in which a range of community volunteers and professionals—nurses, mental health professionals and child care providers—work together in unique ways to offer a variety of integrated services, including home visits, developmental assessments and various parenting programs.
- f. *Neighbourhood Information Post* is a non-profit community resource centre serving the Downtown Toronto East community. At Neighbourhood Information Post, our mission is to help and empower people to overcome obstacles in our community. We do this by educating people about relevant community resources, connecting people to relevant community resources, and providing selective community services that are responsive to critical needs
- g. *St. James Town Sewing Co-op* is a self-funded multicultural sewing group which has participated in shows such as the Cabbagetown Festival and takes custom orders for its shop in St. James Town. The high quality of their products is largely a result of their excellent trainer, who provided sewing courses at all levels from basic to advanced, including pattern drafting. Work and profits are shared between co-operative members and some money is reinvested into the co-operative.
- h. *Toronto City Mission* has ministered in the area for a number of years, providing Bible-based activity programmes for children, youth and their families.
- i. *Wellesley Community Centre* is a fully-accessible, 53,100 square foot facility comprising Parks, Forestry and Recreation's newest community recreation centre, Toronto Public Library's St. James Town Branch, and a children's early learning centre operated by the Child Development Institute in conjunction with Children's Services.
- j. *Women Working with Immigrant Women* is a community based agency working on issues affecting immigrant women and women of colour.

k) Key community needs

Income stimulation: A St. James Town Community Focus group participated in a University of Toronto Study which included research on Health, Stress and Community Resources. Respondents identified a lack of money as being a key stressor in their lives. From a sociological perspective, low income has been linked with many health outcomes, including infant mortality, low birthweight, diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, mental disorders and all-cause mortality (Berry et. al, University

of Toronto, unpublished).

Stereotyping and Racial Profiling: Young male participants particularly felt stereotyped by police and security officers. They felt violated when confronted by racial profiling by authorities. A renewed relationship with those in security and public safety is a strong need in the community.

Language Education: Language classes for newcomers are especially important, as are new immigrant re-location support services. Many current practices are found to be exclusionary due to the language barrier.

Meeting Spaces: Although the newly constructed “Wellesley Community Centre” affords many services to the community, there is still not ample space for large congregations of people, thus contributing to cultural isolationism. The Centre is an important provider of services to families in the area. Previous to its opening, other community and non-profit organizations were often located outside of the neighbourhood. A primary challenge is bringing about actual participation by residents. Due to the impersonal atmosphere, lack of internal resources and almost non-existent green space, many families do not actually venture out to take advantage of services. Services that are available often do not end up reaching the intended target audience.

Current residents do believe they are adequately serviced in terms of schools, access to medical facilities, consumer services, and public transit (although expensive).

Additional needs include increased daycare services, immigration support and employment assistance.

l) Other key significant data

Toronto Police Services annually publishes statistics on force activities. St. James Town falls under the watch of 51 Division which is bounded by Bloor Street East, the Don River, Lake Ontario and Yonge Street. The following chart represents some criminal code offences reported by the 51 Division in 2003.

<i>Offence</i>	<i>Number Reported</i>
First Degree Murder	3
Attempted Murder	5
Sexual Assault	86
Other Assault	1,233
Break and Enter	631
Theft under \$5000	1,880
Offensive Weapons Offences	219

Contextually, these numbers are not overly inflated compared to other divisions, although the distribution of offences indicates a higher percentage of Robbery and Break and Enter in the St. James Town area (*TPS 2003 Statistical Report*).

m) Additional Comments