



New Ethnic Places of Worship and Urban Planning Challenges

Sandeep Kumar Agrawal

Ryerson University

sagrawal@ryerson.ca



Outline

- Introduction
- Research questions
- Community profiles
- Findings
 - Planning challenges/trend
 - Types of services
- Suggestions



Introduction

- Phases in the evolution of places of worship
 - Being run from individuals' homes
 - Matured and have found a temporary/permanent location
 - Well established and is expanding its facility further or move to another site
- What is Faith-based ethnic community?
 - Planned
 - Organically-evolved
- Faith-based community – a planning challenge

Faith-based communities





Research questions

- What are the planning challenges such places of worship face?
- What are the services provided by the places of worship?
- How do local municipalities deal with the growth of such communities?

Canada



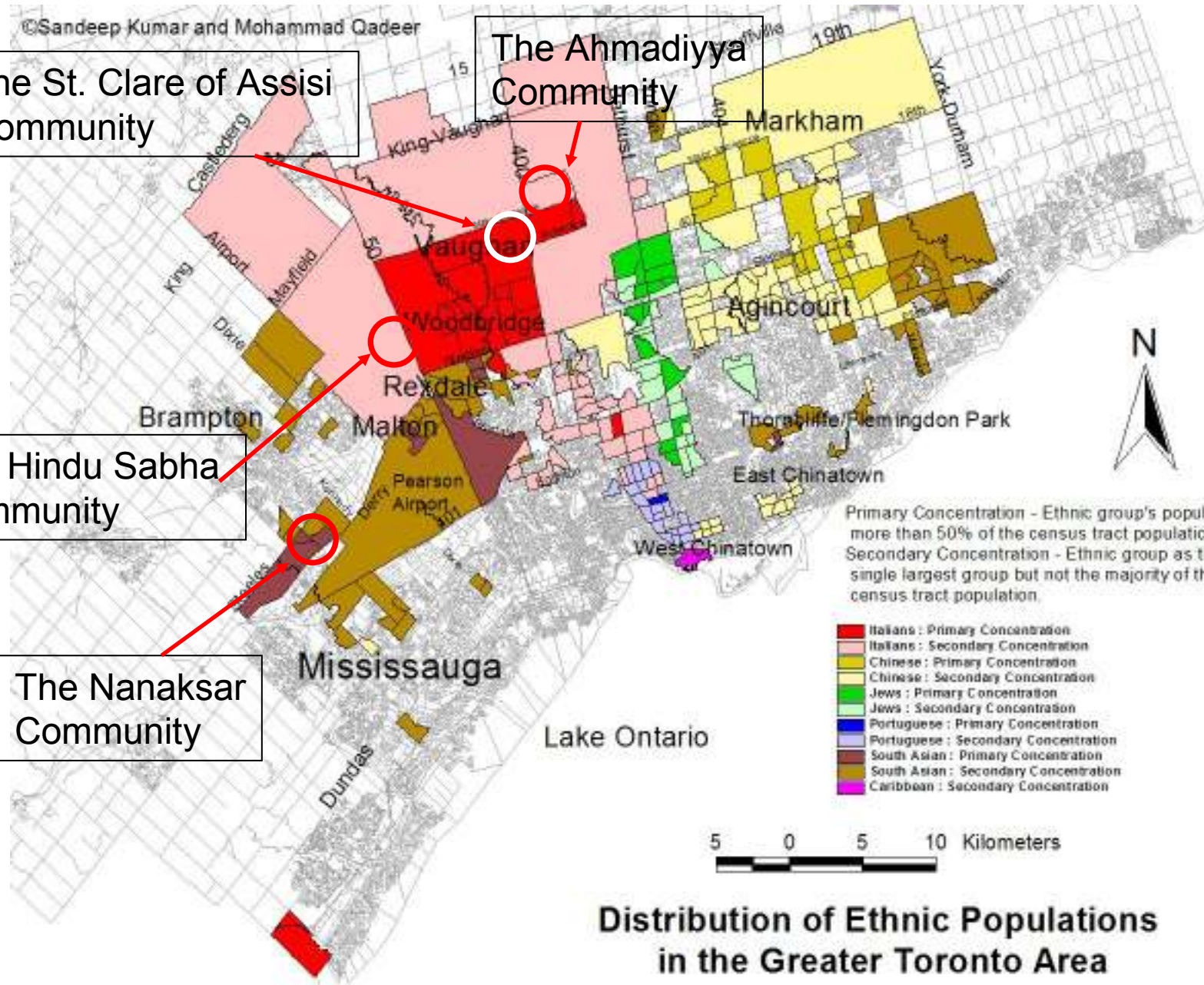
©Sandeep Kumar and Mohammad Qadeer

The St. Clare of Assisi Community

The Ahmadiyya Community

The Hindu Sabha Community

The Nanaksar Community



Distribution of Ethnic Populations in the Greater Toronto Area



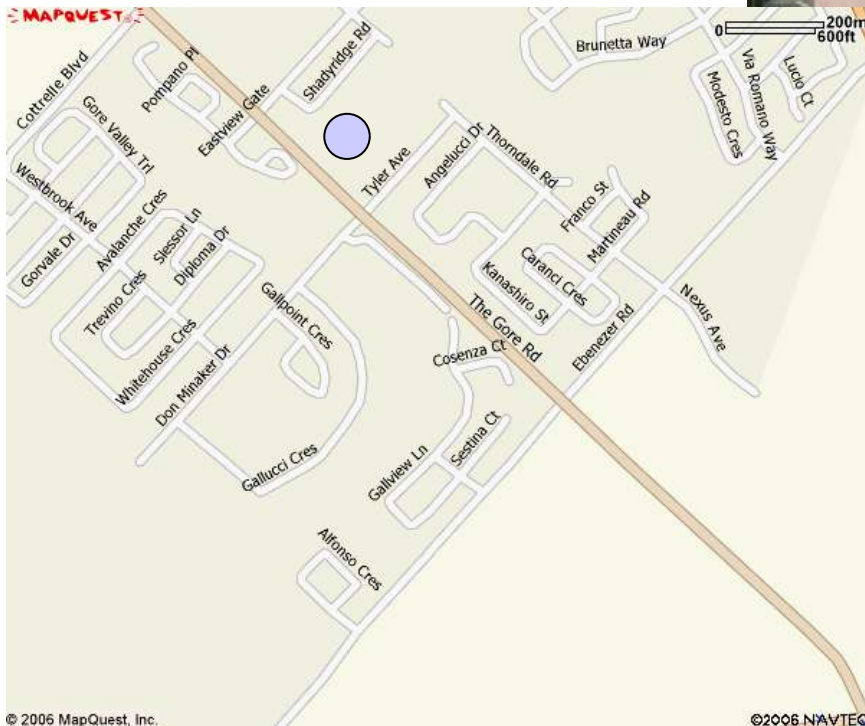
Method

- Case study approach
- Municipal documents
 - Officials plans
 - Staff reports
 - Application for development
 - Ontario Municipal Board decisions
- Interviews with
 - Municipal planners
 - Religious leaders
 - Local politicians

Ahmadiyya Mosque



Hindu Sabha Temple



© 2006 MapQuest, Inc.

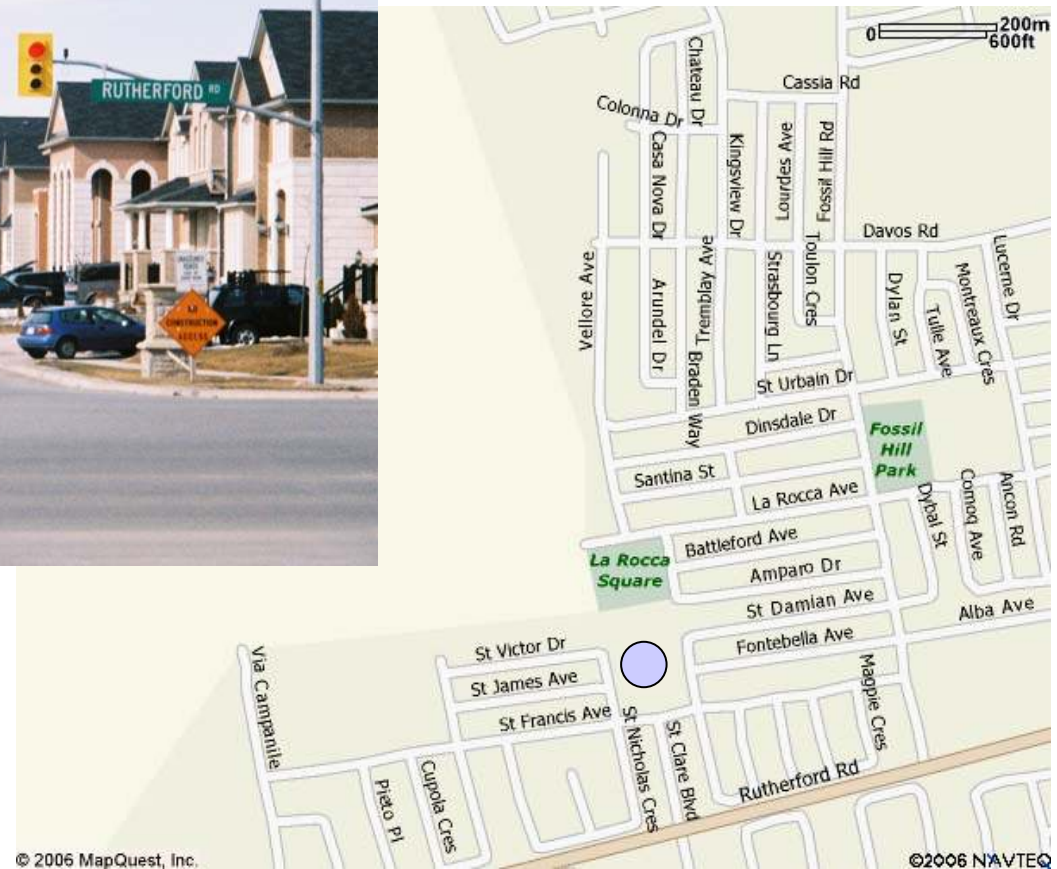
©2006 NAVTEQ



Nanaksar Gurdwara



St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church





Planning challenges/trends

- Places of worship are becoming bigger, ethnic or non-ethnic, turning into regional worship centres
- current allocation of reserved spaces by municipalities are not enough for the new places of worship.
- Places of worship face challenges mainly related to traffic, noise and parking.
- places of worship are moving into industrial areas at a rapid pace.
- Many have bought lands in the rural tracts of municipalities. Some have already moved in to these areas.
- Multiple uses leads to further complications with respect to parking. They open themselves up more stringent rules like food guidelines and environmental regulations.

Types of services

A decorative graphic consisting of six circles arranged in a horizontal line. The first circle is solid light purple. The second circle is a light purple outline. The third circle is solid light purple. The fourth circle is a light purple outline. The fifth circle is solid light purple. The sixth circle is a light purple outline.

- places of worship provide a number of social services to their congregants
 - Settlement services
 - Services to its congregants
 - Services beyond its congregants



Conclusions/Suggestions

- Places of worship moving into industrial areas affect the economic well-being of municipalities.
- Revise parking standards
- Revise size of the space allocated for places of worship. Variety of sizes, placing them on the arterials or major collector roads rather than neighbourhood roads or inside of subdivision.
- those that are moving in rural areas are consuming prime agricultural land, adding to the sprawl and causing burden on the City's infrastructure.
- Explore Public private partnership in providing services
- Prepare Block plans in advance
- Provide more location options – in all land use designations, other than environmental features.