Going to the (Hot) Dogs
Steve Penfold (2004) UHR

- Suburban planning conflicts in the Toronto region 1965-75
- Toronto’s suburbs and suburban middle class were automobile-dependent
- Suburban middle class often objects to the honky-tonk consequences of auto-dependent suburbs
- But they use them too
Figure 2: Toronto and surrounding communities, 1964. (Note: Map shows Metropolitan Toronto boundaries as of 1967.)
Figure 3. Stages of Residential Development in Bronte. (Note: Shaded area along Lakeshore Road shows commercial...
Suburbs

- Were supposed to deliver the good life
- Designed to allow easy mobility by car
- Plenty of cheap space
- Intense planning, zoning
- Planned separation of residential from other land uses
Auto dependence

- Landscape redesigned around the car
- Signs big, garish, visual to catch the motorists eye
- Huge areas devoted to parking, driving
- Landscape designed around driving, not walking
Figure 4: Bronte’s Main Street, 1958.
Bronte 1971

Figure 5: The Strip, Bronte 1971.
Problematics

• Suburban modernity promises peaceful, aesthetic, convenient living
• But delivers ugliness, car-dependence

• Middle class objects to the honky-tonk drive-in culture of the suburbs
• While using it, making it profitable, depending on cars

• Modernity promises order, convenience, health, the good life ...
• But it generates a whole bunch of new difficulties