Changes in Toronto’s Core
Victorian Canada

• Financial markets in Victorian Canada part of a London UK-dominated global economy
• UK purchases 90% of Canadian bond capital before 1914
• Canadian banks, financial institutions, capital markets follow British business culture
• -- British-style bank and commercial architecture
• Montreal the dominant financial capital of Canada in 1867
Rise of North American Capital

• North American cities growing, local capital accumulating in later C19th
• Several major stock exchanges, NYSE the most powerful
• NYSE adopts open trading, ticker system
• US business culture experiments with skyscrapers
• -- construction technology, leasing expertise
Victorian Toronto

• Toronto banks smaller than those of Montreal
• But there are more of them, and they grow faster (esp. Canadian Bank of Commerce).
• Toronto’s financial sector broader than Montreal’s, with major savings & loans, numerous small town banks
• By 1890 Toronto & Montreal totally dominate Canadian banking system
• Toronto Banks hold about 40% of Canada’s bank assets
Victorian Toronto

• Toronto Stock Exchange forms in 1850s
• Mainly deals with bank, insurance, senior equity stocks
• -- most being held locally
• Before 1902: Call system, 1-3 trading sessions daily, no ticker
• Montreal Stock Exchange more active, prestigious
• TSE brokers refusing to touch mining shares in 1896 mining boom
• -- mining brokers organize their own exchange(s)
Canada Life Building
1890s-1910s

• Toronto’s banking sector catches up with Montreal, beginning to exceed it by 1905.

• Small-town Ontario banks relocate HQs to Toronto
  • Traders’ Bank, Ontario Bank

• Bank of Nova Scotia relocates HQ to Toronto 1904
1890s-1910s

- Canada decouples from the London-centred financial universe
- Canadian banks, financial institutions mobilise pools of local capital
- Toronto emerges as a major centre for trading in mining shares, outside TSE
- Mining brokers drawn from outside TSE (often real estate sales)
- -- social outsiders
1890s-1910s

- TSE shifts to open trading 1902, adopts ticker
- Toronto mining exchange (SSME) boosted by 1903 Cobalt silver boom, Nipissing & Abitibi mining booms
- TSE/SSME a conduit for US capital to enter Canada.
1890s-1910s

• The skyscraper begins to appear in Toronto
• -- 1896 Temple Building
• -- 1905 Traders’ Bank Building
Temple Building

• Built by a fraternal organization, the International Order of Foresters, funded by members’ dues (local capital)
• -- outsider capital
• Fraternity led by a Mohawk doctor, Dr Oronhyatekha
• -- outsider leadership
• Built at Richmond & Bay, outside the downtown core
• -- outsider location
• A Chicago-style skyscraper
• -- outsider architecture
1902
Temple Building

- Architect: George Gouinlock from Paris ON
- -- outsider architect
- Once built its grand spaces used for outsider social events
- -- Jewish wedding receptions, grand occasions
- Nathan Philips, a Jewish lawyer, has his offices here.
- -- outsiders
Traders’ Bank Building

• Built by an upstart chartered bank, recently moved in from Guelph & Hamilton.
• -- outsider capital again
• Designed by Manhattan-trained architects
• -- Eustace Bird, half-Chinese
Eustace Bird
Bird’s mother: Amoi Chun
King St E 1907
Bay-King 1913
1920s-1930s

- Downtown Toronto becomes a mini-Manhattan
- Hosts a succession of ‘tallest buildings in the British Empire’
- Skyscrapers go mainstream but social outsiders continue to be important
  - Charles Schwab of NY finances many Toronto skyscrapers
  - Yolles & Rotenburg become Toronto’s skyscraper leasing kings
1920s-1930s

- TSE and SSME amalgamate
- Telephone and ticker system rebuilt to speed market activity
- Ticker system built with a memory buffer, near-computerization of trading by late 1930s
Toronto CBD

• Financial core originally on King St E near Church St
• Moving west on King to Yonge by 1900
• Gooderhams try to stop the westward shift with the King Edward Hotel (1903) on King St E
• By 1925 King & Bay has become the new core
• Core spreads west to University Ave in 1960s
• Now Southcore emerging S of Union Station at York & Bremner