Urban Community
Community

- Shared identity
- Mutually-caring
- Long-term relationships
Classical Urban Theory

- Urban Mass Society has weakened the individual’s sense of belonging, has damaged community
  - Louis Wirth
Has Community Weakened?

• There are still plenty of examples of strong urban community
French Toast

- Dufferin & St Clair emerged as a classic ‘Italian’ neighbourhood in the 1950s-1960s
- Becomes a gathering place for the Italian community
- Becomes a classic venue for the Italian-Canadian soccer fan
- Italian-themed street festivals
French Toast
Urban Community Research

• Community still exists in the city. Urban social networks still active
• Studies of working-class, ethnic minority communities
  – Gans’s Urban Villagers
Urban Community Research

• Established by 1960s that community survived in the city.
• Especially in inner city
• Realtors and social planners “rediscover” community
  – doing so as outsiders
  – Neighbourhood protection in Toronto
  – Prepares for gentrification?
• Urban life does not destroy distinct social groups, it strengthens them.
While the large scale of urban life weakens some ties
   – Especially those based on isolation, locality
It creates the conditions for subcultures to flourish
   – Ethnic, religious, lifestyle