

## Toronto

Metropolitan Toronto was born in 1954 when the city and twelve neighbouring suburbs became a single municipality. About 3 million people are clustered over 244 square miles. They move around in a variety of ways—on subways, buses, trolley buses and street cars. This system—run by the Toronto Transit Commission—is tied neatly to GO Transit, which has buses and four main rail lines carrying some 40,000 commuter fares daily in and out of metropolitan Toronto. Two lines run along the shore of Lake Ontario, one from Oakville in the west, one from Oshawa in the east. The third begins at Georgetown to the northwest and the fourth and newest (it opened in 1978) starts at Richmond Hill in the north.

GO—which is operated by the government of Ontario—connects with bus lines along the route and with the subway and other bus lines at the city's Union Terminal.

## The Subway

Toronto's subway, Canada's first, began operating in 1954 with 104 cars and 4.6 miles of track. Ninety of the first cars were of steel, six aluminum. The latter, which were longer, weighed 73,400 pounds, some 11,000 pounds less than the steel, needed less power and saved money. Since then the TTC has bought only aluminum cars. They are connected in pairs with a driving cab at each end, and can be arranged in trains of up to eight.

The first line, north and south under Front and Yonge Streets, had twelve stations, each 500 feet long (the length of an eight-car train), with glass-faced masonry walls and terrazzo floors. A new exit was soon added at King Street, thirty-six more cars were purchased, four more escalators were installed and a new spur track was added. In its first five years the line carried 360 million riders.

After several extensions the Yonge-University-Spadina line runs in the shape of a U from



*Rush hour in 1905.*



*Digging up Yonge Street to build the subway, 1950.*

*Photos, pages four and five:  
The evolution of public  
transit in Toronto.*