

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910460666603321
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Titolo	Paradise : class, commuters, and ethnicity in rural Ontario // Stanley R. Barrett
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1994 ©1994
ISBN	1-4426-5662-X 1-4426-3331-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (330 p.)
Collana	Anthropological Horizons ; ; 5
Disciplina	307.72/09713
Soggetti	Sociology, Rural - Ontario Social classes - Ontario Urban-rural migration - Ontario Electronic books. Ontario Race relations Ontario Ethnic relations Ontario Rural conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- PART ONE. Paradise Lost: Natives -- PART TWO. Paradise Found: Newcomers -- PART THREE. Perfect Strangers: Ethnic Minorities -- Appendix A. Methodology -- Appendix B. Interview Schedule for Natives -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	What was life like in the 1950s in small communities in Ontario? Lower-class and upper-class residents might have different memories of those days, but on one thing they would agree: it is a much different world in rural Ontario today. The old guard has lost most of its power, displaced partly by 'big brother' in the form of bureaucracy, and new comers from the city in search of affordable housing—even if it means commuting daily to work. Unlike their British-origin predecessors, the newcomers who have begun to appear in the countryside represent a wide range of ethnic and economic backgrounds.Paradise concentrates

on the transformed class system of one community in rural Ontario. In a comparison of the decade following the First World War and the 1980s, Stanley R. Barrett analyses the changing face and structure of a town as it has had to adapt to modern social and economic realities. Particular attention is paid to the phenomenon of the commuter in search of affordable housing and the influx of immigrants of varied ethnic backgrounds, and the interaction between these newcomers and long-term residents. What is striking is just how massive the changes in small-town Ontario have been since the Second World War—to the extent of almost obliterating long-assumed distinctions between rural and urban society.
