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# **What Are Your Opinions On The Recommended Change Of Use Of Casa Loma?**

Nothing is more elegant than this architectural landmark known as Casa Loma, which was first a private home. Sir Henry Pellatt instructed 300 men to build his home, which took 3 years to finish.

Unluckily, Sir Henry had to get rid of his properties including Casa Loma when his company fell into debt, after his street lighting permit was withdrawn by the city. With such opulence and lots of space the house was to become a upscale hotel. Refurbishment took place to change the property for its new use, but the hotel never really achieved the desired turnover and the entire project failed after a mere four years.

A few years after the collapse of the hotel, the Kiwanis Club applied to the City and was given permission to turn it into a museum centred round the original owner and Toronto itself. Over 70 years later the property is still a well-known attraction for the 30,000 visitors that turn up at the doors each year. With no cash from any outside source, the castle is completely self sufficient; it also pays taxes and fees which of course is a nice contribution to the municipal budget.

Despite the evident success of the Kiwanis Club at turning the residence into a useful and popular venue, City Council recently decided to reacquire the management of the property and devise a new long-term strategy. It's suggested that the house will be placed on the [GTA realty](#) market and sold off to an interested investor. It's hard to conceive that an individual would be happy to take possession of the entire property again, but the City may decide to turn Casa Loma into a apartment building.

A modern and spacious building, the Casa Loma would make suitable units for those on the lookout for luxury and style. The castle is not far out of the city, actually it is opposite the Forest Hill neighbourhood, so it has the advantages of easy access to city living.

With the state of the building, exquisite surroundings and the advantage of city life, then Casa Loma is going to be a sort after area to live. Demand for top class homes is still going strong, after all \$28m is the figure one condo went for not long ago, making it the most expensive condominium in Toronto to date.

Some investors may like the idea of the opportunity to buy a slice of this history, but not everyone; many of the public are used to the fact that the museum is a reminder of history and is an attraction they can visit. Arguments against the change of use congregate around the tourist industry and the historical and cultural worth, not how much money the council could make out of it.

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