

ry's "House on the Hill"

Share in a unique experience that has been enjoyed by millions—visit Canada's famous Casa Loma, less than an hour's drive from North Halton. Imagine—a 98 room medieval-style castle in the heart of Toronto!

Casa Loma

Canada's Famous Castle

By Roy Downs

This magnificent landmark was built between 1911 and 1914 by a famous Canadian—Sir Henry Pellatt, soldier, financier and industrialist. Sir Henry was an "incurable romantic" who had life-long interest in the castles of medieval times. It was not surprising that he decided to use some of his amassed fortune to build a castle of his own.

He spent several years studying Old World Castles and gathering materials and furnishings. He brought marble, glass and panelling from Europe, teak from Asia and oak and walnut from prime areas of North America. Scottish stonemasons were brought to build the massive wall that surrounds the six acre site.

A reality
The enchantment of this famous landmark still reflects the imagination and artistry of the owner, the architect and the many skilled craftsmen who helped make a dream become a reality.

You'll be fascinated by the splendor that is evident everywhere. The Conservatory with its elegant bronze doors, Peacock Alley copied and named after the historic hallway in Windsor Castle, the majestic Great Hall with its 60 foot ceiling, the Oak Room where three artisans worked for three years to fashion the french oak panelling, the Library designed for his volumes, the spacious and luxurious dining room and the grand ballroom.

Now worth \$100 million

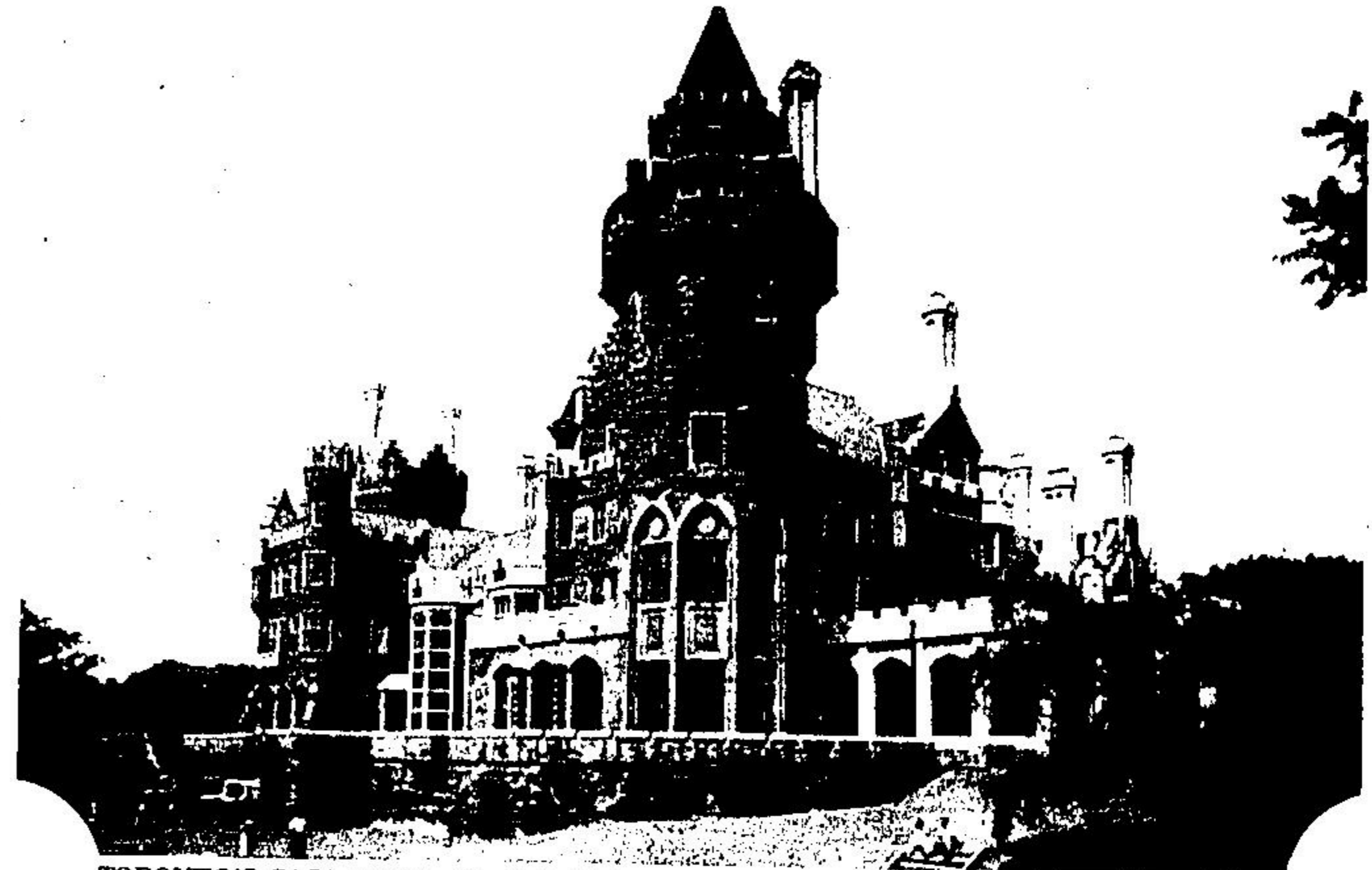
The castle cost Sir Henry about \$2,000,000. Today, it could not be duplicated for 50 times that figure. Its 98 rooms include three bowling alleys, 30 bathrooms, 25 fireplaces, 52 telephones, an indoor marble swimming pool, several secret passages and two towers offering a magnificent view of the city. The grounds are beautifully landscaped.

One description calls the castle "a mixture of 17th century Scottish Baronial and 20th Century Fox."

Sir Henry might have liked that description—for he was a flamboyant multi-millionaire with an air for showmanship. His dream was to one day entertain royalty in Casa Loma. He gave parties for 3,000 people at a time, but the royalty never came.

Also known as "Pellatt the Plunger", Sir Henry was a founder of the Toronto Electric Light Company. He made a lot of money developing western Canada in the latter part of the 1800s and also made a fortune on CPR stock. He saw the Americans harnessing power from Niagara Falls and was determined to build an electrical power plant on the Canadian side. So he floated a \$10,000,000 bond issue in England that, combined with Canadian money, formed the Electrical Development Company. Ontario Hydro bought this company in 1920.

Received knighthood
Pellatt was knighted in 1902 for his contribution to the commercial development of Ontario.



TORONTO'S CASA LOMA with its bold turrets and beautiful grounds, sits high on a hill in the centre of Toronto. It's worth a visit this summer, the whole family will enjoy roaming through it.

participate in King Edward VII's crowning ceremonies and in one of the flamboyant acts for which he was famous, decided to take an entire military band along—at his own personal expense. Then in 1910 he took 870 members of the Queen's Own to British army manoeuvres—paying all the transportation costs plus maintenance of the regiment for several weeks. Today the regiment uses part of Sir Henry's castle for a museum of Queen's Own memorabilia. Casa Loma incorporated all the latest (for that day) in electrical equipment, includ-

ing indirect lighting fitted into the elegantly moulded ceilings. Pellatt had an electric elevator for his wife, a semi-invalid. A refrigeration system kept the 1,500 bottles of wine in his unique wine cellar at the correct temperature.

City takes over
By the 1920s taxes were killing Sir Henry and a servant problem had developed—too few, costing too much. In 1924 he left the castle and moved to his farm at King. His possessions were sold for \$500,000 at a fashionable auction. The city of Toronto took over his castle for tax arrears.

Henry died in 1939, still rich, at the age of 80.

In 1937 the Kiwanis Club of West Toronto restored Casa Loma as a tourist attraction. The club uses its share of the proceeds to support many worthwhile community projects—youth programs, assistance for the disabled and retarded, music festivals and assistance for the needy.

Casa Loma is located at 1 Austin Terrace and it's open 10 to 4 daily. There is a cafeteria and gift shop in the lower level. You can see it in an hour, or spend a whole day exploring Casa Loma.



THE CONSERVATORY features Italian marble floors and marble from Canadian quarries used as facing on the flower beds. Sir Henry housed a prized collection of tropical plants and flowers here and the flower beds were temperature controlled.

ur and extravagance
oaken beams.

s and Toronto's first
loer make it a little