

## *Casa Loma: Toronto's Own Medieval Castle!*

Who knew a city as young as Toronto, could have its own medieval castle sitting high upon a hill? That castle is Casa Loma, and was built by wealthy financier Sir Henry Pellatt in 1911, for a cost of \$3.5 million dollars.

Sir Henry built Casa Loma to pay tribute to the romantic era of damsels and knights on horses, which he encountered during his European travels. He commissioned Canadian architect E.J. Lennox to design his castle, and within 3 years Casa Loma was finished. Sir Henry then furnished Casa Loma with art and antiques collected from around the world. Casa Loma consists of 98 rooms, and can boast of a beautifully appointed Great Hall, a Library, a Conservatory, two soaring towers, and even a hidden passage! Casa Loma is surrounded by 5 acres of estate gardens, including a “secret garden”, and an elaborate stable connected to the castle by an 800 foot tunnel.

Casa Loma is currently owned by the City of Toronto, and is operated by the Kiwanis Club of West Toronto. For visitor information on Casa Loma, please go to [www.casaloma.org](http://www.casaloma.org)

Copyright 2008 Tricia Bateman. All Rights Reserved