

February 20, 2015

Planning and Growth Management Committee
City of Toronto



HCD Prioritization Process – Casa Loma District

I am writing to express our community's strong support for the inclusion of the Casa Loma area within the prioritized list of districts to be included in a Heritage Conservation District Study. Casa Loma is one of the most unique and significant areas of the city and contains some of our most famous landmarks including Casa Loma, Spadina House and the EJ Lennox residence, Maclean House among many, many others. In addition, the neighbourhood has one of the rarest old growth forests in the City with many significant oak trees that continue to be under stress from increased development. It should not come as a surprise that many walking tours for tourists and local residents include a walk through our neighbourhood.

This area has been identified by the City as a significant heritage area for many years. City Council on December 5, 6 and 7, 2005 authorized Casa Loma for study as a potential heritage conservation district. We believe this to be a correct and important decision.

The area has been under tremendous threat and only the actions of the Casa Loma Residents Association working in conjunction with Heritage Preservation Services and many other interested parties allowed the partial preservation of two significant heritage properties – the MacLean House at 7 Austin Terrace and the Neilson House at 72 Wells Hill. There are many other significant properties that face similar threats that currently do not have adequate protection.

Throughout the Casa Loma neighbourhood the continued extreme development pressures that threaten the area are expected to only accelerate in the immediate, near and long term future, as evidenced by what has already happened and what is being proposed

The Casa Loma area urgently needs this designation as an issue of priority for us and for the City as is clear from the multiple determinations over the years. There is already funding in place to start.

We appreciate the rigorous process that has already been thoroughly undertaken to determine the priority areas and we kindly request that there should not be any further delays in getting started with the priority areas. Every day that goes by puts these areas at further risk.

We look forward to commencing this urgent process for the Casa Loma area as quickly as possible.

Regards

Robert Levy
President,
Casa Loma Residents Association

CASA LOMA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Robert Levy: President (clratoronto@gmail.com) - Dyan Kirshenbaum: Vice President (dyankbaum@hotmail.com) – Jonah Arnold (jonah@walaw.ca)- Vice President- Paul Morrison (pmorriso@mccarthy.ca) Vice President
Norm Goldman: Secretary (goldman@gsmh.com)