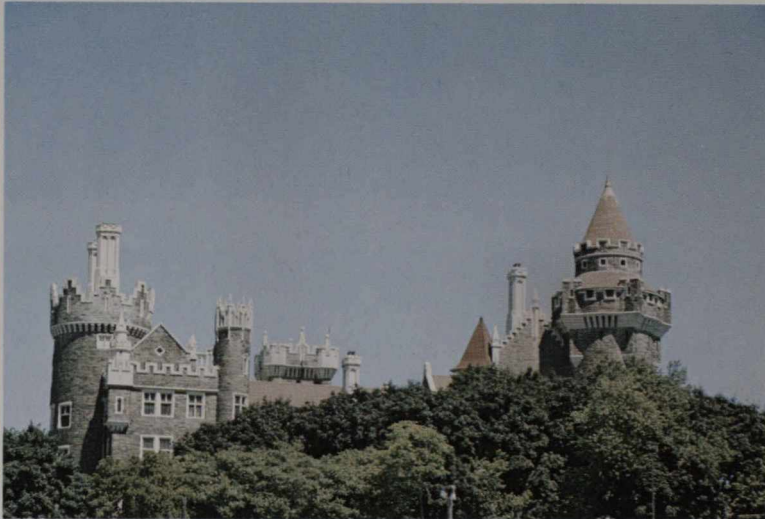




By the mid-sixties a great many people who'd moved out to the suburbs began moving back to the city, which was still clean, with good schools and a range of housing choices, including detached bungalows, row houses and high-rise apartments.

It was also safe. Crime in Toronto is less of a problem than frost. It has crime — forty-five persons were murdered in 1973, including two constables — but the rate of offenses in terms of population remains notably below those of American cities of similar size. The majority of crimes, 54 per cent, are cleared by arrest and major "index" crimes have been diminishing in recent years. Many factors contribute to the comparative calm; Toronto is prosperous with few bottom-level slums, and though there are many ethnic neighbourhoods, there are no ghettos in which the residents are trapped by tradition or circumstances.

The core of Toronto never decayed to any great degree, but its survival as a residential city was threatened when anonymous, rectangular steel and glass towers were replacing gingerbread verandas at an accelerating clip. In 1972 Harry Bruce wrote in *Saturday Night* magazine: "The monster cannot escape his own rapacity. He has the eternal, gnawing gut of some poor, doomed, hideous wheeling old shark. He gobbles not just mansions and trees but parks, movie-houses, schools, ravines, lanes and backyards that are historic simply because somebody must once

have loved them and known their lilac bushes as individuals."

Some Torontonians felt that Mr. Bruce had overstated the case but he was certainly not alone in his outrage. In 1972 the voters elected an "antideveloper" group, with David Crombie, a professor of political science, as mayor. The new City Council passed a two-year ban on building anything over forty-five feet high and architects began recycling old warehouses, factories and row houses into office buildings and shops. Today the lilac bushes survive, the height ban is still under vehement discussion, and the massive rebuilding of the waterfront is being reconsidered in terms of the best human-scale replacement for the old freight yards. The residential neighbourhoods are intact but they are not easy to move into — ordinary single-family houses on one-seventh acre lots have been selling in the Toronto outskirts for \$65,000 each. Fashionable in-city remodeled row houses go for \$100,000. Most new houses carry high mortgages and in Canada mortgage interest is not deductible from income taxes.

If Toronto's superboom is slowing down the citizens aren't all aggrieved; many feel, to use Marshall McLuhan's word, that it is time to replace the cult of moreness with a sense of "enoughness."