To the Council of the City of Hamilton,

Regarding the Auchmar Estate, far too many years of ambivalence and lassitude have passed since the city assumed ownership of the property.

In fits and starts, over the past four years, the City of Hamilton has displayed respect with various projects completed on the grounds and the manor house. It is nice to see the progress that Clifford Restoration is making on Issac Buchanan’s summer home.

I urge the council to continue along the path they are on and complete a full restoration of the manor house, other buildings on the grounds and the stone wall.

The opportunity exists for the City of Hamilton to make a bold move: create a public space for all to enjoy, a multi use manor house, and a commons.

Over the past decade, various councils have viewed residential development as an option. This is an option that benefits a few and not the greater public at large. Walk away from this.

In essence, it boils down to these two questions: a) Can the property pay its own way when restoration is complete? and 2) Will the city have to carry it and subsidize it for a certain amount? The answers to both questions are yes.

Look not to Toronto for answers currently: Casa Loma is Toronto councils’ Auchmar. For successful multi use manors and historic properties, look to Riverwood, the Cawthra Estate and the Adamson Estate in Mississauga. View Rodman Hall (the family home of Thomas Rodman Merritt) in St. Catharines. Take the the best of these.

Believe in Auchmar. Restore the Manor. The people will come.

Sincerely,

John Kajas