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- Keep 2m apart from anyone outside of your household.
- Limit your close contact to your household only.
- Wash your hands often.



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NEWS

HALTON HILLS REMAINS ATTRACTIVE TO BUYERS

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more houses selling in multiple offers," Ray Chesher, realtor in Halton Hills with Your Home Realty Inc. and HeyRay.ca, said.

Chesher estimated three out of four houses sold in Halton Hills this year received multiple offers.

"There are people in apartments who were thinking of buying in the next two years, but because of COVID-19 have moved their plans ahead," he said.

With good access to funding and low interest rates, for many buyers, despite the pandemic, the time was right to purchase a home.

"The federal government saved the real estate market in March," Chesher said. "Once COVID-19 hit, a lot of people were laid off or had reduced hours. For anyone who was approved for a mortgage at that point, banks or mortgage lenders would have pulled their funding or commitment letters."

Instead, the govern-

"The reason prices are going up is strictly a lack of inventory,"

- realtor Ray Chesher

ment of Canada guaranteed those mortgages, even if job loss had occurred.

"That propped up the real estate market through the time frame," Chesher said.

Now, with cash in hand, buyers still face the challenge of finding affordable homes.

Halton Hills remains an attractive market for Toronto-area buyers, Chesher said, due to lot sizes and access to the city.

In Georgetown, average housing prices increased by 13.41 per cent in the last year as of September. According to Halton Region's State of Housing Report, the average price of a new home in Halton Hills was \$985,945 in 2019, while resale homes cost \$755,660 on average. As of September

2020, the average price of a home in Halton, both new and resale, according to the Toronto Real Estate Board, was \$941,200 in Halton Hills. The average price of a home in Acton grew by 20.86 per cent during the same period.

"The reason prices are going up is strictly a lack of inventory," Chesher said. "It's a long-term issue. In Ontario, we're not building enough housing for the demand."

According to a draft of Halton Region's State of Housing Report for 2019, 164 new homes completed construction in 2019 in Halton Hills, with 53 homes still under construction. In 2019, construction began on 18 additional homes in Halton Hills.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: As COVID-19 restrictions continue to limit gatherings and promote social bubbles, buying or selling a home may be a challenge. With that said, we wanted to explore how the pandemic has affected housing sales in Halton Hills.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO CLIMB

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The number of positive COVID-19 cases in Halton Region continues to reach new heights.

Data from the Halton Region Public Health from Oct. 30 to Nov. 4 show 250 new active cases, with 42 cases being resolved.

The majority of cases

in the region were reported in Oakville, with 126, and Milton, with 88.

Just over half of cases reported during the week were women.

The majority of infections were in residents from ages 40 to 59, with 102 new cases; 88 residents were between the ages of 20 to 39; and 59 cases for people age 19 and under.

For people 60 years of age and older, there were 43 new cases. Oakville and Milton had the greatest amount of new cases. New cases were attributed to outbreak (26 cases), contact (105 cases) and community spread (60) were the leading cause of transmission.

As of Nov. 5, the number of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in the region stands at 2,411 since the beginning of the pandemic, with 2046 resolved cases and 36 fatalities.