

NEWS

FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON POTENTIAL VACANT HOMES TAX

Halton Region is asking the public to provide input on a potential vacant homes tax.

Residents are invited to complete a short online survey by the end of November or attend an online public meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 23 from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

"Finding a home can be challenging for individuals and families who want to live in our growing community," Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair, said in a news release. "One way we're addressing this issue is by studying how a vacant homes tax could help increase housing supply. If you currently own or rent a home in Halton, or if you hope to do so one day, I encourage you to take our survey or attend a virtual public meeting to tell us what you think."

Only unoccupied



Graham Paine/Metroland

Have your say on a potential vacant homes tax.

homes in Halton would be affected by the tax. The cost would be based on a percentage of the home's current value assessment. According to the region, this type of tax is commonly implemented with high housing prices and a low supply of homes for sale or rent.

The input will help in-

form key features of a potential vacant homes tax, including how long a home must be vacant before it is taxed, taxation level, how to identify vacant homes and exemptions, as well as the overall level of public support, the region said.

To learn more about the potential vacant homes tax, go to halton.ca.

FORMER HALTON POLICE CHIEF PASSES

Halton police has bid farewell to its former commander in chief.

It was announced on Oct. 28 that retired Halton Regional Police Service Chief James Harding died at Burlington's Joseph Brant Hospital.

"Jim was an incredible leader," said Halton police chief Stephen Tanner, in a Tweet he shared of a photo of the two of them in the 1980s. "My first chief, leader and friend to many of us."

Hired in 1979, Harding remained with the force until his retirement in 1994.

He was known as a pioneer leader whose contributions shaped the Halton service and the policing profession as a whole.



Halton police photo Former Halton Police Chief James Harding.

"We will miss him greatly," said Halton police in an email. "Our hearts and thoughts are with the Harding family."

A STRONGER VOICE

We recognize that diversity is the strength of our communities and we are inviting you to share your voice in our publications



