## The impending GST and 1990's housing market

By JAMIE JOHNSTON

Homebuyers and sellers across the country are asking themselves the same question these days, namely "Will the prospect of the Tories' Goods and Services Tax (GST) heat up the real estate market and drive house prices up in 1990?"

The answer to that question will probably be "yes" although the degree the impending GST will affect this year's market remains very much in question.

As part of its "beat the deficit" defence plan, the federal government has included new homes, sold after Dec., 31, 1990 on its GST "hit list".

The new tax will in effect, increase the price of new homes by anywhere from 4.5-7 per cent.

You can expect many buyers and sellers across the country will rush to escape the tax on new homes promised for next lanuary.

It's important to remember the tax is ap- market. The scramble to close before yearplied according to the closing date of the new home purchase, not the agreement date. Since it takes several months to build a new home, buyers will have to act now if they want to secure a closing date before year-end.

Although the GST only applies to new home sales in 1991, it is reasonable to assume this upcoming tax change will also have an effect on the entire housing

end should spill over into the resale market, as consumers "push ahead" their decision to sell and buy before the tax.

We should expect to see more activity in the housing market for the latter part of this year than would be the case without the prospect of the approaching GST.

For the present, most of the buying public seems to be focusing only on the GST's effect on the price of new homes.

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SUPER LOCATION This 4 bedroom 2-storey home with main floor laundry room, family room, built-in dishwasher, is approximately 2175 sq. ft. of living space. Nicely landscaped and a garden shed for storage. This a brand new listing and worth coming by to see

Just call for details. Lindsay J. McLaren

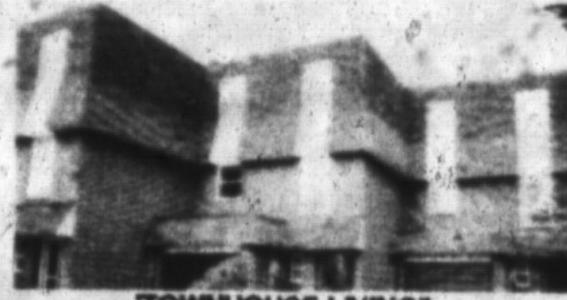


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Was \$254,900. List Price \$199,900



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THE PRICE WILL ASTOUND YOU

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