

**COVID-19
IMMUNIZATION
CLINIC**



**Does Canada have
a secure supply
of vaccine?**

Concerns rise again with threats of export controls from Europe // **A8**

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WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 27, 2021

THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

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**Grace Villa
operator
'saddened'
workers felt
they lacked
resources**

**APANS Health Services
responds to disturbing
allegations from staff**

MARIA IQBAL
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Grace Villa's operator responded Tuesday to horrific reports of understaffing, deplorable sanitation and neglect inside the home's recent COVID-19 outbreak, while critics joined calls to revoke the company's licence.

The Spectator reported on tragic conditions exposed by workers in correspondence to Hamilton MPP Monique Taylor. The letters, which Taylor released Monday, describe in graphic detail the disturbing conditions inside the city's biggest and deadliest outbreak.

In an email late Tuesday, APANS Health Services addressed the allegations for the first time.

"The safety of our residents, staff and family members is paramount and these statements are deeply

ALLEGATIONS continued on A2

**Eight new
COVID-19
deaths in
Hamilton**

KATRINA CLARKE
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Hamilton has eight new COVID-19 deaths and a record-high 53 active outbreaks.

One of the deaths is a person in their 50s.

As of Tuesday, public health's website showed 240 COVID deaths in Hamilton since the pandemic began.

Of the eight new deaths reported Tuesday, one appears to be from the Meadows long-term-care

COVID-19 continued on A2



IS IT REALLY WINTER WITHOUT SNOW?

Victoria Pearce's headband gets a dusting as she walks her dog and gazes up to survey the falling snow in Gage Park Tuesday morning. January got off to a late start but made up for lost time Tuesday with the first significant snowfall of the year in the area. Spectator photographers fanned out across the city to capture the scene. Story and photos // **A4**. Weather map: Find out what's in store for the rest of the week // **G9**.

JOHN RENNISON THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

**2020 marked 'unprecedented' growth
for Hamilton-area real estate market**

A detached, single-family home in the city sat on the market for an average of 24 days last year, compared to 31 in 2019

FALLON HEWITT
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Not even a global pandemic could stop the Hamilton-area real estate market from growing last year — and in more ways than one.

Nearly 15,000 homes were sold in 2020, marking an 8.4 per cent increase from 2019, while the average price of a home rose by 16.8 per cent to just a little more than \$690,000, based on the latest figures released by the Realtors Association of Hamilton-Burlington (RAHB).

The latter is the "most surprising" figure, said RAHB president Donna Bacher, in an email to The Spectator.

"An almost 17 per cent growth in the average price — growth that would normally take two to three

years to match — with sales and new listings being relatively normal is crazy," said Bacher.

"Even crazier is this unprecedented growth in average price happening in a year that was unprecedented to begin with," she said.

The market experienced a "slight slowdown" in March and April as the world ground to a halt due to COVID-19.

In April, the organization reported 484 residential sales in the month of April, a decline of 63.4 per cent compared to April 2019 and 56 per cent compared to March.

Realtors pivoted in the wake of changing public health guidelines — and like everything else, open houses and showings went virtual.

The association had expected 2020 to "be a good market," but the "uncertainty" around lockdowns stifled their expectations.

Bacher credited the "unexpected" gains to "government stimulus packages" as well as low-interest rates.

They also witnessed an influx of new buyers they never could have predicted.

"I don't believe we expected the flee to detached

homes and the migration radiating outward from Toronto influencing the number of sales in the (our) market area," said Bacher.

In Hamilton, a detached single-family home remained on the market for an average of 24 days in

GROWTH continued on A2

Hamilton saw a 10 per cent increase in sales, with the average price of a home rising by 18 per cent to \$629,961.



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WEATHER
HIGH: -3
LOW: -10
Sunny with cloudy periods; some clouds tonight **G9**

BRIDGE G9
BUSINESS A15
CLASSIFIED G5
COMICS G10
CROSSWORD G10
ELLIE & HOROSCOPES G9

LOCAL A3
LOTTERIES A2
MOVIES G2
OPINION A10-A11
SUDOKU G10
WEATHER G9

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