

# President's message

## Executive faces busy year of activity

By Bob Knox  
President N.E.C.A.

On Wednesday, April 6, more than 100 residents of New Edinburgh attended the Community Association's annual meeting elected a new executive but more important was the extent of participation reflected in the meeting's attendance. If your new executive committee has one mandate it is to consolidate and expand on this kind of involvement so as many people as possible can contribute and participate in shaping our community in the coming year.

Although the new executive committee has not had an opportunity to review action areas to develop priorities it is quite clear that there are a number of subjects that we must address as a community, including:

- \*resolution of the proposals for the flood hazard area.
- \*a position for the OMB hearing.
- \*participation with the city in planning recreation areas associated with the schools.
- \*extending our involvement in heritage matters in the community.
- \*participation with other community organizations in dealing with matters affecting this and other communities.

No doubt during the next year other issues will arise. We will also be pursuing immediately a number of other organizational matters including the following

- \*taking steps to form an organization and committees that will broaden the base of community participation.
- \*setting up executive meetings so that the people in the community who wish to speak to issues can participate.
- \*reviewing the constitution and organization so that the Association is more clearly committed to open management.
- \*continued publication of the New Edinburgh News so that the community is well-

formed on issues and activities.

All of these will require an extensive involvement from the community. anyone interested in any of these areas should contact members of the new executive. Those people in the community who are not now members of the Association are encouraged to support it by becoming a member.

This is your community. It can be shaped to meet your needs and interests. It only requires your commitment and participation.

I believe that I speak for all members of the new executive committee in saying that I look forward to working with you and for you in the coming year.

## Heated discussion is meeting feature

A large turnout of area residents was in attendance at the annual meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Association last month. The meeting was lengthy, and sometimes heated - reflecting the various concerns members of the community have.

The question of the Vanier arterial was discussed at length, and a motion was finally approved giving the association wide parameters within which to work. The motion was a compromise - expressing both the point of view of the association's executive and that of the members of New Edinburgh Against Traffic (NEAT).

Basically the position taken is that the community association will continue to fight the arterial, but if no viable alternative can be found to alleviate traffic problems in the village, the arterial as modified by the National Capital Commission would be accepted as the solution.

During the course of the meeting it became evident that traffic is a major concern - especially traffic on Crichton St. which has increased since the opening of the Vanier section of the arterial. The installation of a four-way stop sign at the corner of Crichton and Dufferin Rd. has cut down on speeding, making it somewhat safer for children who cross the street to attend Crichton School. The new executive of the association was given a mandate to do everything in its power to resolve the traffic problem.

In other business, the city's proposed flood hazard zone by-law was discussed, and President Bruce Grant said he had

held a meeting with residents in the affected area, and that letters of protest had been sent to the city. In addition, an objection was registered on behalf of the community association.

Several residents, including Bill Jenkins, Ernie Stitt and "Porky" Grant questioned whether there was a hazard and why the city was creating a by-law now in a community which has survived for 100 years and is going through a period of restoration.

City planners Stan Lennon and John Guinan presented plans for the playgrounds at both Crichton and St. Charles-Barrette Schools. The city has earmarked approximately \$75,000 for playground development at the schools this year and work at both schools will be carried out simultaneously.

The plans feature expanded tot lots, hard-surface games areas including tennis courts, quiet areas near the tot lots with benches and trees, creative play areas and considerably more landscaping than the playgrounds currently enjoy.

The parking lot at Crichton School on the Dufferin Rd. side will be eliminated to accommodate the expanded tot lot and adult sitting area. Some parking will be provided behind the school on Avon Lane, and Ald. Rheel Robert raised the question as to whether this might cause problems for Avon Lane residents, especially during the winter months when snowbanks cut down the lane's width.

The parking proposals at St. Charles-Barrette were also dis-

cussed, and some residents asked questions regarding lighting in the expanded playgrounds to prevent vandalism.

Martin Lowe of the Crichton Community School Council reported on the year's activities. He said the council needed more volunteers to help with the programs being offered. Suzanne Cardinal said the council at St. Charles-Barrette had a good year. Over 100 people attended the night classes offered, and a majorette group of 24 girls has been organized.

Eric Adams of the Crichton School Advisory Committee said that Crichton was no longer the smallest school in Ottawa - 35 other elementary schools now fell into this category. He said several after school activities had been organized by his group for children in the area including swimming at the Lower Town Pool. He also said several area residents have volunteered to teach children woodworking, needlecraft and other skills. The latest effort of the advisory committee is the organization of a "block parent" scheme in New Edinburgh with the co-operation of the Ottawa Police Department.

An election of community association officers was held, 148 ballots were cast and the following will represent the community on the executive during the upcoming year: Bob Knox, Bob Strachan, Emile Lachance, David Morgan, Frank Anglin, Dennis Forester, Bill Jenkins, Eleanor Dunn, Bruce Brown, Murray Sutherland, Andre Kingsley and Remo Coldato.

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

## Real estate agents say area desirable

By Margaret Rothwell

Senior real estate agents feel the New Edinburgh area will become a more popular area in which to live in future months as real estate prices and interest rates drop.

According to these agents, who are representatives of two major real estate agencies in Ottawa, New Edinburgh will have more inhabitants in the near future as people decide to move back to the city core and closer to their places of work.

Because of lower prices and mortgage rates and the increase in the number of properties on the market, prospective buyers have the ability to "shop around" when it comes to buying a home. Sellers, therefore, are not able to ask the high prices that have prevailed in recent years.

Many of the houses in New Edinburgh are being used as investment properties, with the owners not living in them, rather renting them out. One agent said there are some owners who rent houses that were

originally built as single family dwellings as two or three separate apartments for over \$500 each a month. He said it was sometimes more economical for the owner to rent than sell a house.

The agents said most of the houses are two or three storey older homes that usually sell for over \$70,000. Sales are no slower in this area than they are in any other, they said, although many people have said they would rather buy a large bungalow in a more modern area.

People on the market for homes are now able to comparison shop and therefore are rejecting some of the higher priced houses that are for sale in the area. Townhouses that were listed for over \$80,000 are now being sold for about \$9,000 less because no one would buy them at the higher prices.

New Edinburgh is an excellent area for younger families, say the agents. The Burgh is close to all transportation, schools, shopping areas and other necessities. It is a nice

# In 1898 the water just kept coming.....

By Garth Allen

The night of March 14, 1898, was disastrous for the New Edinburgh district of Ottawa. That was the night the Rideau

River flooded its banks and inundated hundreds of area homes and businesses.

The ice on the Rideau River was heavier than usual that year, and that was the

reason for the flood. Prior to 1898, the ice had been blasted and a channel cut, usually in late March or early April, to avoid flooding. However, the city council refused to listen to pleas from the alderman representing New Edinburgh, B. Slinn, make an early start on the necessary work on the river. Bureaucratic red tape also gummed things up. Aldermen Slinn and Morris had asked Alderman Cluff, chairman of the finance committee, for funds to have the work done. Ald Cluff said nothing could be done until an appropriation from the Board of Works was passed.

The flood occurred between 1:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. on the night of March 14. Blocks of ice tore away a portion of the sidewalk on the St. Patrick St. bridge. Half of New Edinburgh was flooded within a few minutes and the southern end of the area was hit first. Worst hit was the east side

of Crichton St. All the houses on that street were flooded. Among those forced to cope with soggy houses were Hermaine Kraufman, Charles Abeat, Fred Guthans, George Muhlig, and Nicholas Cardiff, who lived at the end of Stanley Ave. Water was up the top of many front doors, and boats became the main mode of transport in the area. All livestock had been moved to safety during the night—to Government House grounds.

When dawn broke the next day, New Edinburgh residents saw the flood mainly confined to the area of Mackay, Crichton, and Victoria Sts. Both schools had been flooded and could only be reached by boat. As to monetary loss, Ald. Slinn found his store had been flooded and he had lost \$2,500.00 in merchandise. W. Moore's grocery store had suffered a loss of \$500.00. Slinn was quoted as saying, "After me, the deluge."

Although the water had fallen a foot during the day, boats were still the favored method of transportation on March 15.

That day, Ald. Slinn and Rogers, accompanied by City of Ottawa Engineer Surtees and ex-Alderman John Askwith, investigated, by boat, the damage in the New Edinburgh area. They estimated the damage at between \$20,000.00 and

\$25,000.00.

On March 16, New Edinburgh residents were hoping for high winds and a thaw to break up the ice jam that had caused the flood. Meanwhile, the water level had fallen by four feet, and several Rideau Ward dwellers were talking about suing the Corporation of the City of Ottawa for damages.

The night of March 16, saw a meeting of the Board of Works to discuss problems the flood had caused. The next day's Ottawa Citizen reported that many habitants of New Edinburgh were at the meeting, and most of them made complaints about flooded homes and asked for money for damages. Whether they were successful in obtaining money was not reported.

By this time, streetcars were running more or less normally, their tracks being free of water.

The next day danger from further flooding was eliminated. Workmen had removed large blocks of ice from the river, while other workmen had blasted ice from the rivers' edge.

Mayor Bingham of Ottawa was receiving donations for victims of the flood at this time. The size of the fund was unreported, but the Ottawa Citizen said the Governor General the Earl of Aberdeen had sent a cheque for \$25,000.

## Flood bylaw set

By Moira Dann

A city of Ottawa by-law designating flood hazard zones will affect homeowners in certain parts of New Edinburgh.

The boundary, as established by the by-law, starts in the northwest at Thomas and Alexander Streets. It continues on a diagonal to Charles Street and Crichton Street, and continues again on a diagonal to Union Street and Stanley Avenue.

There is a small loop in the boundary on the west side of Stanley Avenue, where only four or five properties are affected. The boundary then continues to New Edinburgh Park, and then runs parallel to the Rideau River behind Crichton Street.

"I would say maybe 30 properties are affected," says John Guinan of the city's planning department.

The by-law disallows any new development in the area. A homeowner wishing to build a minor extension must first receive permission from the Committee of Adjustment. If a homeowner wishes to initiate a large project, such as the doubling of floor space, he must apply to the provincial government for re-zoning.

The municipal by-law, passed July 5, 1976, supports both the Regional Plan's designation of hazardous lands, and the recommendations of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

Guinan says the city has taken responsibility for zoning and for "letting people know."

The term "hazardous lands" is distasteful to some people, so the city is considering using a different term, such as "restrictive zoning."

"The city is proceeding with the regional designation of hazardous lands," says Guinan, "but is considering the revision of terms."

## Officers chosen

The New Edinburgh Community Association executive held its first meeting on Monday, April 11 with past president Bruce Grant in the chair.

The major area of discussion centred around traffic problems and the Vanier arterial.

Bob Knox was elected president of the executive, while Bruce Brown will serve as vice-president. David Morgan will be the new secretary and Murray Sutherland will continue as treasurer.

Executive members are: Frank Anglin, 120 Stanley Ave. 741-4470

Bruce Brown, 210 Crichton St. 741-4267

Remo Coldato, 111 Crichton St. 741-9639

Eleanor Dunn, 34 Dufferin Rd. 749-4510

Dennis Forrester, 41 Alexander St., 745-5979

Bill Jenkins, 98 Stanley Ave. 749-1507

Andre Kingsley, 202 Stanley Ave. 746-0540

Bob Knox, 161 Stanley Ave. 745-1927

Emile Lachance, 111 Putman Ave. 749-1306

David Morgan, 97 Victoria St. 745-3270

Bob Strachan, 79 Crichton St. 746-1067

Murray Sutherland, 23 Noel St. 749-9067

New Edinburgh residents who haven't as yet joined the community Association are asked to do so as soon as possible. Treasurer Murray Sutherland would like to hear from you. Fees are \$3.00 for a family membership and \$2.00 for a single membership.

## Community council needs volunteers

By Cathy Nicoll

The Crichton Street School Community Council offers a program of night education for adults in addition to social evenings when people can meet other people in casual surrounding.

Martin Lowe, says the council needs more volunteers in order to offer a wider, more varied program for both study and recreation.

"The council has a core of four people who do everything from preparing and sending out pamphlets to manning the desk. After a while, we begin doing the same things. It is too much for four people to do," he says.

The council needs more volunteers in order to obtain some fresh ideas.

"We have tried recruiting more volunteers, but we are not very well known and we have not been very successful."

Fifteen to 18 night courses ranging from conversational French to photography to macrame are organized by the council. The content of the courses depends on the people who prepare them and these instructors are hired by the council. If the council finds it

difficult to find instructors for unusual courses, the Board of Education will locate skilled people.

The council is part of The Lighthouse Program sponsored by the Board of Education. A liaison officer works closely with the council and is a major source of ideas and assistance.

## Block parents

If you are over 16, you can apply to be a block parent. You can be single, married, working or a senior citizen. When a child is scared, hurt, lost or bullied, he or she knows help is available at a house displaying the Block Parent sign.

New Edinburgh is the latest community in the city to organize a block parent program with the co-operation of the Ottawa Police Department. A meeting of concerned parents was held in the library of Crichton St. School on April 21 to start the program on its way.

Familiarize yourselves with the block parent sign, and alert your youngsters to its value.

**NEW  
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# Heritage her major interest

By Joseph Levy

The feeling begins as you cross the first stone bridge. It increases, as midway over the second bridge you look back across the business wasteland, then turn around again to face the parks and Victorian structures ahead. The hectic world is left outside, for the moment, with all its symbols of efficiency and artificial friendliness, and you automatically relax.

You are entering the village of New Edinburgh, where the story Thomas MacKay began in 1832 still lingers, here in the heart of Ottawa.

The second house off the bridge at 34 Union Street is the residence of Eleanor Polk. During the last 20 years she has done more than her share to insure that heritage is preserved, and she recently received an award from the City of Ottawa for her efforts.

Mrs. Polk and her family arrived in New Edinburgh as refugees from the Manor Park development of the fifties. At that time the area was relatively unscathed by developers.

But in 1960 the federal government expropriated four blocks adjoining Sussex Drive where the old Fraser Schoolhouse stands, and shortly thereafter, City Hall proposed rezoning the area. It was time for action.

"In those days we weren't really thinking so much about heritage preservation as about saving

the quiet way of life this community offered," Mrs. Polk remembers.

Those who watched helplessly, knowing the futility of tackling the federal government, stepped forward to successfully challenge the city's right to pass new zoning regulations.

The heritage movement came into its own in 1966. In an effort to prepare for centennial year, the group, under the direction of R. A. J. "Bob" Phillips (now executive director of Heritage Canada) had to convince the government and the people that they should be proud, not ashamed, of the Victorian buildings of inner town.

They finally did arouse public consciousness behind the cause and a formal organization known as the New Edinburgh Community Association was formed in 1971. That year they had to raise \$2,500 to fight a "so-called" eight-storey senior citizens' home that could be later turned into an apartment building. This building would have gone up on the site of the old mica factory at the corner of Crichton Street and Dufferin Road.

Then in 1973 the association became a force to be reckoned with when, with the help of the NCC, they forced re-routing of the Vanier Arterial.

The present zoning regulations, gained after years of constant struggle, state that high-rise buildings cannot be built in the area. Victorian design must be preserved.

Nevertheless a constant watch has to be maintained against profiteering developers. One instance is the apartment building on Stanley Avenue which was authorized illegally a few years back. What happened to the guilty party at City Hall? He was fired and went to work for the contractor who was building the apartment.

The project at hand is to acquire heritage designation of streetscapes, rather than houses, and to work from there.

Last year Mrs. Polk and her son went around the neighborhood and noted over 100 buildings of heritage value. This done, they transferred data to a plan of the area. Clifford Ham, a heritage officer with the City of Ottawa's planning branch, is now drawing up an overall proposal to present to City Council.

"At least now we have members of council on our side," says Mrs. Polk. "One can never be completely satisfied, but I feel the city is doing its best. I'd rather have them slow and on the ball than not at all."



ELEANOR POLK  
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

## Former Alderman dies suddenly

The New Edinburgh community was saddened recently by the death of former Rideau Ward Alderman John Powers. He was 81.

MacKay United Church was filled to capacity for the funeral service - indicating how

much John Powers had meant to so many people.

Ald. Powers served the residents of Rideau Ward for 24 years. In addition, he served two terms on Board of Control and 13 years on the Civic Hospital's board of directors.

He lived a long life with enthusiasm, reflecting his wide interests; As a young man, serving in the 27th Battalion during the First World War he received extensive shrapnel wounds to his legs. During 27 months of hospitalization, he determined

that amputation was not to be his lot. He recovered to go on and become captain of a hockey team in the old Civil Service Hockey League. Frank 'King' Clancy was a member of his team.

He remained active in the

Masonic Order, the Shriners and the Kiwanis Senior Citizens group until days before his final illness, and his service as a churchman was distinguished.

He was an Elder, Clerk of Session and Trustee of the church.

# IODE members serve the community

By Joan Westen

What goes on behind the doors of Laurentian House on MacKay St.? It's the home of Laurentian Chapter, Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.

And while modern society is often criticized for promoting an uncaring attitude among its members, fortunately, there are still some people who care enough to devote time and money to the needs of the community.

The 326 Ottawa members of the Imperial Order of the

Daughters of the Empire contributed 6,266 volunteer hours to various organizations in the city in the last year.

In financial terms the total amount of money spent on charitable and educational work by the chapters in the Ottawa area amounted to \$35,270.00.

The IODE is a national organization that has 12 chapters in the Ottawa area.

One-third of all money raised by the group must be used in the field of education.

Different chapters contributed gifts, magazine subscriptions,

and teachingaids to local schools.

Schools are supported through art, music, history, mathematics, and English awards.

Carleton University, Algonquin College and the Vanier School of Nursing received scholarships, bursaries and other forms of assistance amounting to \$2,275.

The IODE also assists any local organization that is in need of volunteers.

In the past year 40 Citizenship Courts have been attended by IODE members, and aid to native Canadians was provided at the Odawa Native Friendship Centre. Chapters also donated gifts and awards to the children at the Dokis Reserve School.

Women's groups such as the IODE have been called outdated and have been condemned by certain feminist organizations.

Hospital; those senior citizens who received Christmas gifts and dinners the people who received the clothing, books, and toys the IODE sent to Northern Nursing stations - these are only a few who appreciate the time and energy spent by members of the IODE.

## Montessori School Spring Fair set

On Saturday May 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ottawa Montessori Schools will hold its annual Spring Fair at Mont St. Joseph, 50 Maple Lane. Admission is free.

Features of the fair are the bake table with international cuisine, the horticultural booth with plants and flowers, new and used books, the flea market, raffle and handicrafts by

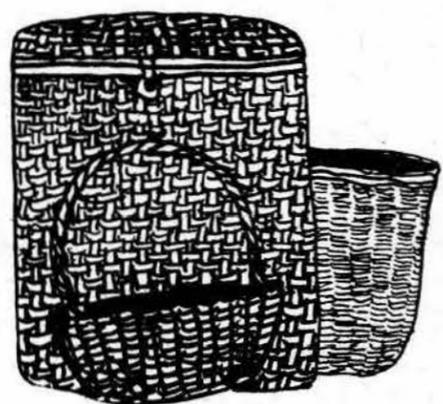
the Gloucester Craftmen's Guild.

Children will enjoy the free films, the pony rides, balloons and games.

The fair is organized by parents of children in the school to raise money for the library, scholarships, and audio-visual equipment. For further information, call the school at 745-5831.

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