

## **PARK VISION 2019 AGM REPORT**

In 2017, the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) board, needing a framework to assist NECA's decision making regarding New Edinburgh and Stanley parks for the immediate post-CSST work and for years to come, hosted a Park Vision Community Forum. A working group was formed, overarching principles identified, and options explored regarding NECA's 2018-2019 Strategic priorities: re-greening post CSST; configuration of the Pathway system through the park; and, the "disappearing" pathway at the corner of Stanley and Dufferin.

On June 8, 2019, the Park Vision working group invited the community to a consultation meeting to bring residents up-to-date on developments and prompt a wide-ranging discussion of our vision for the park with specific ideas and concerns. Following the community meeting, NECA sent "Suggestions Regarding Plantings in Area of Stanley Park to be Restored" as part of an ongoing conversation on a landscape project which will bear fruit for many years to come.

At the same time, NECA met with the numerous stakeholders involved in the restoration of the park to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership with particular attention to restoring the "wilderness" in the Park and the "disappearing" multi-used path. NECA was told that due to the scope and complexity of the project, the flood protection measures sought by NECA could not be included in the CSST reinstatement plan. The issue is currently being pursued by a core group of residents as part of a longer term strategy.

### **Building community consensus on the Park Vision, one walk at a time.**

Encouraged by the progress made at the June Community Meeting on the Park Vision and considering that decisions taken now on the restoration of Stanley Park are investments that will affect possibilities for future generations, NECA's latest Park Vision initiative — *A Walk in the Park* — reflects the intention for the Vision to establish deep roots within the community, enabling informed choices in support of NECA's collaboration with the City and the NCC in setting the direction for the future evolution of New Edinburgh and Stanley Parks.

Early Saturday morning, September 28, braving the threatening rain, a committed group of community residents and park users gathered at the Fieldhouse to join *A Community Walk in the Park* to take a tangible and comprehensive view of the present situation in the park and share observations and suggestions to further advance the community Park Vision.

While the number of participants was not large, due to the last minute invitation, their dedication to the task gave impressive results. During the walk, there was also ample opportunity to experience the calm and simple beauty of nature and rediscover how wonderful contact with nature and neighbours can be, as well as how small group exchanges can strengthened community ties.

As NECA will soon bring forward community views, concerns and suggestions to the City and the NCC on the park reinstatement plan, interested residents and park users are invited to replicate a *Walk in the Park* of their own, and are encouraged to participate in small group sectors discussions if they can.

Information on the *Walk in the Park* initiative and the small sector group discussions will be available at the AGM. You are also encouraged to visit [www.newedinburgh.ca/community-associations/neca-committees/park-vision/](http://www.newedinburgh.ca/community-associations/neca-committees/park-vision/) to keep abreast of the strategic sector groups activities.