APRIL 1976

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

Vanier Arterial

Completion date uncertain

By Dora Moir

The Vanier Arterial, as first proposed, was a high-speed corridor linking the Queensway to the MacDonald-Cartier Bridge.

The plan was designed by engineering consultants, Wylie and Ufnall, in 1972.

The proposed expressway generated mixed reactions in the areas it would pass through, Vanier, Overbrook, and New Edinburgh.

Vanier was enthusiastic, Overbrook less so, and New Edinburgh was strongly opposed.

Bruce Grant, president of the New Edinburgh Community Association, said the original plan as it affected New Edinburgh called for a four-lane, 60 mph highway, which would be gradually elevated from Beechwood Avenue to Dufferin Road, and would continue as an overpass to the MacDonald-Cartier Bridge.

There was also a plan to widen Stanley Avenue for use as a collector street.

Opposition by New Edinburgh residents in 1972-73 succeeded in having the plan modified from an expressway to a parkway with a 35 mph speed limit.

Grant said the community association received backing from the National Capital Commission for the changes. He said any concessions the association was able to get were for the most part due to NCC interest.

Grant said the issue that is concerning residents at the present time is the amount of parkland the community will have to give up.

The Parkway will cut through the playground if it proceeds according to the present plan. This will affect the recreational life of the community.

He said: "The alignment of the Parkway will determine where the playground will be located and how much space is left over for other uses."

The things to consider in relocating the playground are the distance from the school, and how much use will be made of it by residents at the opposite end of the community.

Residents are aware that they can still bargain for saving some of the parkland as the final plan is not yet settled.

Grant said: "We are being asked to give up a lot for this thing. We want to get the best deal we can out of it."

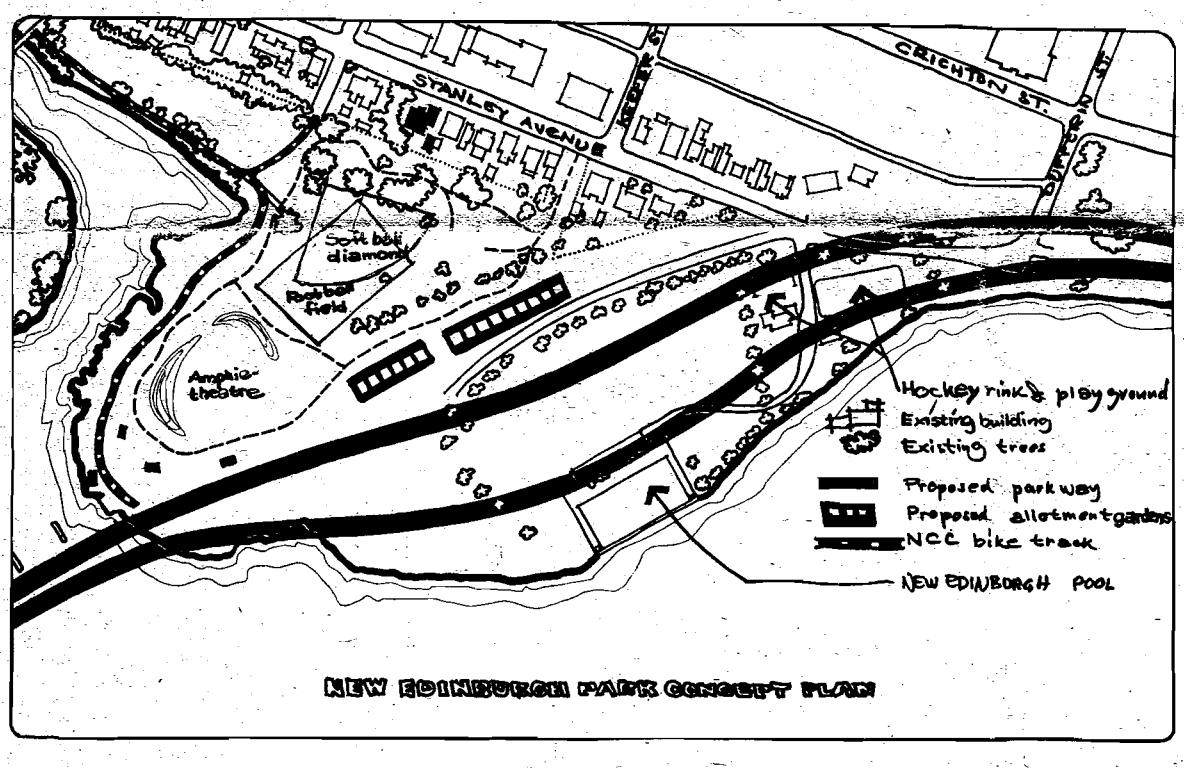
On the positive side, the Parkway, when completed will take through traffic off Crichton Street and will lessen the threat of accidents to community children. Crichton and McKay streets are shortcuts that are used to get to the MacDonald-Cartier Bridge.

There is also a plan for the installation of traffic lights at the King Edward interchange, which will slow motorists coming off the bridge.

This state of the Vanier Arterial is expected to be completed in 1980-81 as is the Overbrook section. The McArthur to Beechwood section was completed in 1974.

Regional Roads construction engineer, O.B. Johnsen, said, "The planning is still in the conceptual stage". He said he did not know when the Overbrook or New Edinburgh sections would be completed.

He also said he did not know where the traffic lights would be installed. He said, "The final decisions are not made yet".



NEW EDINBURGH PARK CONCEPT PLAN

Map shows alignment of arterial and effect on park

Neighborhood park's future up in air

By Donna Oates

What's happening to recreation in New Edinburgh?

Stan Lennon, of the city's recreation and parks department, is working with the local community association and both Separate and Ottawa Board schools in the area, in an attempt to formulate a definite plan for recreation in New Edinburgh.

It is the group's intention to maximize the use of existing church and school facilities rather than invent or build new ones.

Crichton, St. Charles, and Barrette schools all have good recreational facilities, as well as large open grounds that could, according to Lennon, be put to excellent use by the community.

One obstacle the group has run into is the proposed location of the new Vanier Arterial or parkway, which will cut directly through what is now New Edinburgh Park.

There is only one place where the park can be moved.

"We have no choice but to relocate it closer to city hall, adjacent to the parkway," says Lennon.

The co-ordinating body is at present trying to identify requirements for the park . . . what exactly is needed? The aim is to "expand rather than duplicate", and a lot of citizens have become involved in the project. In fact, the park's future will be one of the main issues to be discussed at the community association's annual meeting.

So far, only a discussion plan has been drawn up, and there are still problems to be ironed out. For instance, the plan makes no provision for parking for those from outside the area wishing to utilize the park facilities. Suggestions and help from interested individuals will be welcomed at the annual meeting.

It is hoped a final decision will be made in the next few months so city engineers can begin drawing up construction plans.

"On the whole," comments Lennon, "it's going pretty good."

Burgh heritage

No plan in sight

By Richard Van Dine

The city has no intention of developing a heritage policy for New Edinburgh this year, according to Peter Davies, head of Ottawa's neighbourhood planning division.

Mr. Davies said New Edinburgh is the only remaining community of significant heritage value without a heritage plan, but the city is going ahead with a city-wide study instead.

The Sandy Hill, Lower Town and Centre Town communities already have neighbourhood zoning plans which provide for heritage preservation, and according to Mr. Davies, these make up three-quarters of the area under study by the city.

Mr. Davies and Clifford Ham, the city's heritage officer, both said there has been no pressure from the New Edinburgh community for a heritage policy.

Mr. Ham said he hoped some interim controls could be established to protect a number of buildings throughout the city, some of which he said are in the New Edinburgh area.

He expressed concern that some buildings in the community have been renovated without consideration for their heritage qualities.

Despite his concern, Mr. Ham said his time is taken up with the city-wide study and a certain amount of heritage loss is inevitable in the meantime.

He said the study would focus on districts and groups of buildings so that heritage controls are laid out in a logical framework. He didn't know when the study would be completed.

In the meantime, New Edinburgh stands alone as a community without a plan to preserve its heritage value.

L'artere Vanier: C'est l'temps!

La date de la realisation de l'artere Vanier se rapproche de jour en jour. Les ingenieurs responsables sont en train de mettre au point le plan final de la section qui traversera notre quartier.

Votre Association des residents (l'A.R.N.E.) a decouvert que certains aspects du design semblent contredire les desirs des residents. Par exemple, les deux voies de l'artere sont separees une de l'autre par de grandes etendues de terrain, ce qui entraine des pertes de superficie non justifiees. Vu que notre parc n'a pas d'espace a perdre et vu que nous ne pouvons pas l'agrandir, il nous semble que l'on devrait questionner tout plan qui voudrait reduire ou gaspiller notre parc.

C'est pourquoi nous avons invite les responsables de la planification de l'atere a notre grande Reunion annuelle qui aura lieu jeudi, le 22 avril a l'ecole Crichton, a 19h30. Vous aurez la chance devoir le plan en question et vous pourrez poser les questions que vous voudrez a ceux qui realiseront l'artere. En plus, on pourra voir et discuter des plans pour les loisirs dans notre quartier. Nous avons la chance de pouvoir suggerer et aider a la planification des facilites pour les loisirs dans notre quartier.

Ne manquez pas votre chance de participer a cette reunion. La direction que la planification de New Edinburgh prendra sera grandement affectee par l'apport que les residents auront contribue lorsqu'invites a le faire. C'est le temps! Nous vous attendons donc jeudi soir, le 22. L'Association des residents, c'est vous qui en determiner le pouvoir.

.New Edinburgh Community Association

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

Thursday, April 22 ..... 7.30 p.m.

Crichton School

Special Topics: Alignment of Vanier Parkway.
Recreation Developments.

Memberships available at the door.

Bake sale by Day Care Committee.

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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A non-profit publication serving the
New Edinburgh Community

We're here!

By Bruce Grant

Here it is at last, the first issue of our own community newspaper. Every person who ever worked for the New Edinburgh Community Association has seen the need for a community newspaper, and yet we have dealt with so many crisis situations over the last few years that we never developed beyond crisis-management methods of operation.

Problems like the Vanier Arterial and the threat to close Crichton School were handled as crises and communicated through public meetings. Those meetings were effective and they reinforced our neighbourhood spirit, but to achieve anything beyond reactions to emergencies we always knew we would have to get the New Edinburgh News on its feet.

The task of producing the News was lifted from our inexperienced hands by Eleanor Bates Dunn, a "burgher" who is a member of the faculty of Algonquin College's Journalism and Broadcasting Department. Eleanor and her first year students did the entire job and have every right to be very proud of the results. We are indebted to them.

In this first issue you will see a long list of courses and activities offered at Crichton and Barrette schools. These developments represent a great leap forward from defensive actions to community services, thanks to Bruce Brown's Crichton School Community Council. The New Edinburgh News will help so much to keep it going and growing.

Although we now have a newspaper, the old-fashioned public meeting, like the lead pencil, will never become obsolete. Read the article about the proposed alignment of the Vanier Parkway. What do you think? How much parkland does it really require? See you at the meeting.

What next?

Some of you may be wondering what direction the New Edinburgh News is going to take. It's a valid question.

Primarily, the New Edinburgh News will be a vehicle of communication, in both English and French, supplementing the vast amount of information you get through the daily newspapers and radio and television newscasts.

Because the city has grown so rapidly over the years, the other media can't cover community interests as they once did. That's where a publication such as this one comes in. It's filling the gap.

The New Edinburgh News is a non-profit publication. Any revenue generated through advertising — and we hope you patronize the advertisers who support us — will go to pay for the costs involved in publishing, approximately $200 for a four-page tabloid such as this one.

Initially we are looking at publishing on a monthly basis. Perhaps in the future we'll be able to expand — but that depends very much on you.

We've accumulated a considerable amount of editorial material — some of which will appear in the next issue. Some of the stories deal with New Edinburgh today, while others are reflections on the past — recollections gathered from long-time residents of the area.

We think this is valuable. Some of us have lived here all our lives; some of us are newcomers; and others are expatriates who have returned because we value the quality of life a community such as New Edinburgh offers.

New Edinburgh is an area in transition. It's an area with a lot of history — history worth preserving.

We need contributions from area residents. Perhaps you have a story to tell, or a memory you want to share. Perhaps you'd like to see your name in print. Whatever the reason, we want to hear from you.

In future, we hope to establish a classified advertising or "barter and exchange" column which, we believe, will be another valuable community service. Some of us have children who have outgrown skates, skiis and other types of athletic equipment. Others have children who are just getting into sports. One group may be able to help the other — we hope to bring them together.

We want to know about special activities going on at the neighbourhood churches. We want to hear from people with interesting hobbies.

All we ask is that material either in French or English, be typewritten, and triple-spaced. Or if you don't feel you can write the story yourself, drop us a line

Material for publication can be either mailed to or dropped off at 34 Dufferin Road.

(P.S. — A special "thank you" goes out to Lars Lindgren, who did the artwork for our flag and masthead, as well as the Vanier Arterial map, and to Cherry Caldato who looked after advertising content for this issue.).

The man who came to dinner

"Visit" lasts nearly 60 years

By Jane Heney and Jane May

At three years of age Ted Donaldson came to New Edinburgh for Sunday dinner with his grandfather. He stayed for 62 years.

Ted loves New Edinburgh and is a knowledgeable source of reference. He has just finished writing a history of the Burgh and hopes to have it published this year — the 150th anniversary of the city of Ottawa.

Talking to Ted is like having a private tour through the ages and avenues of New Edinburgh. He insists there are many other area residents who know as much and more than he does about the area's history, but his own anecdotes and memories add a pleasant personal flavor.

Although this is not meant to be a complete concise history of the area, it should provide at least an idea of some of its past and present.

New Edinburgh had its beginnings when Thomas McKay came to Ottawa in 1826 to complete work on the Rideau Canal locks.

McKay built saw, flour and lumber mills utilizing power from the Rideau falls. These business interests attracted people to the area and the settlement grew out of an initial collection of wooden shanties.

In the 1800's, Ottawa was a world leader in the lumber business, but by the early 1900's nearly all operations at the Rideau falls were closed. By this time though, New Edinburgh had grown into a sizeable settlement.

Around the turn of the century things hadn't changed drastically in the area. There wasn't much building or demolition. During the depression, there wasn't much money available to buy or sell houses, so New Edinburgh residents stayed put.

Ted says the first real changes in the structure of the community came after the Second World War. More money was in circulation, people bought and sold houses, and moved in and out of the area.

German and French-speaking people moved in, adding a colorful ethnic touch. It was a fashionable area in the early 1900's and today it's that way again. The years in between were important in shaping the

community and building up the close community spirit that still exists.

Ted remembers New Edinburgh as being important to the development of Canadian hockey. As far back as the 1850's, some of Canada's greatest hockey stars were learning how to skate along the frozen Rideau River and on local rinks.

Big names like the Boucher brothers, Aurele Joliat, Eddy Gerard and Hubert Wilson, who played for American as well as Canadian teams, all grew up and learned their winning techniques in New Edinburgh. In the 1926 Stanley Cup (Montreal vs. Vancouver) all the goals were scored by "Burgh" boys.

Ted has always lived in the same house — one his uncle built. As a youngster, he would sneak out at midnight to the empty house his grandfather had lived in, and play the old organ to frighten people in the neighbourhood.

He recalls the ever-present crowd of young men outside Darweesh Kareem's general store, and refers to them as the "church path parliament". It was fashionable in those days (as it still is) for young people to congregate around the corner store to discuss the day's events.

A lot of the old atmosphere of New Edinburgh remains today. People have a sense of belonging to the area, a loyalty to it. In the past they fought city hall to protect their area from highrises. With the backing of the National Capital Commission, they won the fight.

Ted says that years ago a five-storey apartment, the Edgewater, went up on Stanley Avenue, and special permission had to be sought for its construction as it was definitely an exception to the rule.

At one time American Embassy wanted to build accommodation on Pine Hill, but it was quickly discovered that the U.S. flag would fly higher than the Canadian flag on Rideau Hall, so the transaction was swiftly vetoed.

Ted has fond memories of growing up in New Edinburgh. He loved watching the farmers from Gatineau trek across the frozen Ottawa River, lugging their hay and food products to sell in the Byward Market. This short-cut, ending up where the French Embassy is presently located, saved the farmers many miles on cold winter days.

Visiting royalty passed by Ted's street. He saw Nehru, the King of Siam, and the first American astronauts to walk on the moon as they made their way to and from Rideau Hall. His favorite memory is the "V for Victory" sign flashed directly at him as he watched Winston Churchill leaving the Governor General's residence.

Ted spoke of several community activities — church and school picnics, canoe races, and lawn bowling — all of which help to keep the New Edinburgh area an interesting and active place to live.

He mentions former newspapers in the area, The Dipper in 1906 and the Burgh Breezy Bits from 1922. He's glad there is going to be another local newspaper, and hopes there's enough colour in the area to justify one.

With people like Ted Donaldson to call on for information about both past and present — there won't be any lack of colourful and interesting stories.

Des courses en francais a l'ecole Barrette

La communaute francophone de New Edinburgh, est heureuse de vous annoncer la formation d'un Comite d'education communautaire. Ce comite a pour but de mettre sur pied des cours d'interets generaux tel que: macrame, crochet, culture physique, decoration de gateaux, ect. ect...Ces cours seront donnes en francais dans votre ecole francaise, c'est-a-dire a l'ecole Barrette situe sur la rue Vaughan et ce a partir de septembre.

Nous pensons qu'il est bon que les gens d'une meme communaute se regroupent pour mieux se connaitre, pour mieux connaitre les problemes de leur quartier et pour mieux communiquer entre eux afin de les resoudre.

Nous avons aussi pense aux jeunes et aux moins jaunes. Nous voulons organise des soirees pour que les personnes agees se rencontrent, se connaissent et nous apportent leur belle humeur et leur grande sagesse. Nous voulons que nos jeunes aient un coin bien a eux pour s'amuser en francais avec un moniteur francais. Presentement nous demandons qu'un parc d'amusement et qu'une cour de tennis soient installes dans la cour de recreation de l'ecole Barrette, ce qui serait plus central pour tous les francophones du quartier.

Nous avons pense vous donner les noms des personnes faisant partie du Comite d'education communautaire et nous demandons a toutes les personnes qui veulent se joindre a nous de communiquer avec Mme Lucie Seguin au 746-5294 ou avec Mme Suzanne Cardinal au 749-5169, afin de nous apporter leur aide et leurs conseils. Voici la liste des membres du Comite d'education communautaire:

Mme Susanne Cardinal
Mme Lucie Seguin
Mme Claire Cheff
Mme Irene Marion
M. Andre Kingsley
M. Vincent Gratton
Pere Amyotte
Mme Germaine Patenaude
Mme Monique Sylvain

Long-time teacher is mourned

By Laura Fletcher

"She touched the lives of many people."

That's how Mrs. Robert Crawford, of 61 Victoria St. described the late Miss Nan Slinn of New Edinburgh.

People in the New Edinburgh area who were students or an acquaintences of Nan Slinn's during her many years as a kindergarten teacher were saddened by her death on March 9, of this year.

Nan Slinn started teaching at Crichton St. School when she was 17 years old, and taught until retirement age.

Miss Audrey Witty, principal of Hawthorne Public School, taught with Miss Slinn for four years and remembers her as a "very fine lady who always did the tasks assigned to her."

Mrs. Crawford said Miss Slinn had the ability to teach and understand people of any age. She was outgoing, and involved in crafts. She enjoyed woodworking with boys, dancing, painting and she played piano for the church choir. And when Christmas or Festival time rolled around Miss Slinn was always involved.

It must have been her happy-go- lucky manner which fooled everyone into believing that she was younger than her 84 years.