

Summer recess for O.M.B.

By Ed Browell

Since mid-February, two commissioners of the Ontario Municipal Board have been sitting in Ottawa to listen to the statements of approval and disapproval during the OMB's formal review of the Official Plan of the Regional Government of Ottawa-Carleton. The commissioners have heard hours of testimony by region officials, legal counsel representing the municipalities in the region, legal counsel representing private developers, legal counsel (Tom MacDougall) representing the Federation of Citizens' Associations (of which our Association is a member), representatives of citizens'

associations and private citizens. Now that the hearings have been adjourned until September, the commissioners will write decisions on the arguments they have heard. These decisions, and the decisions made following the hearings next fall, will shape housing, land use, transportation, and other policies in Ottawa-Carleton for the next 25 years. It is also of interest that this OMB hearing represents the first hearing of an official plan of a regional government and thus is precedent-setting.

The Official Plan under review by the OMB was developed by the regional government between 1970 and 1974.

It was developed through a \$2 million

public participation and planning process. In spite of this costly experiment in citizen participation, it is clear from the objections being raised that a large body of citizens have reservations about the Plan's philosophy, basic assumptions and recommendations. Until the commissioners have rendered their decisions, and the housing minister has approved the Plan, officially, at least, the Plan cannot be followed. In fact, politicians in regional government have already based important decisions on the Plan.

Since February, a working group of New Edinburgh citizens has been monitoring the OMB hearings. Written and oral preliminary presentations were made to

the commissioners on Feb. 16, objecting to certain aspects of the Plan affecting New Edinburgh and other surrounding communities with whose citizens' associations we are co-operating with through the Eastern Coalition.

On May 3, the Federation of Citizens' Associations submitted three excellent briefs.

Currently the New Edinburgh Community Association executive is reviewing two summary sheets prepared by the working group. These summaries show our Association's objections (supported by neighbouring associations) to the Hemlock-Beechwood Corridor and the Vanier Arterial. Various acceptable alternatives are also shown.

(SEE: OMB... p.2)

Education program serves area needs

In September of 1975 the Ottawa Board of Education declared that Crichton St. School would be part of the Lighthouse program.

This meant that the Ottawa Board of Education would allow the New Edinburgh community to have full use of the school facility and equipment for any recreational, cultural, social or educational function it might want.

The idea is based on the philosophy of community education, a concept which brings community resources to bear on community problems. Community education will acquire as many different functional forms and appearances as the diverse needs of the community dictate. No two community education programs will ever look the same. This is necessary if community education is to play a relevant service role in the community. If community education is to be uniquely suited to your community, you must have more than a speaking

acquaintance with the concept.

Programs represent neither the totality nor the potential of the community education concept. Nevertheless they are a vital component of community education. Without programs to attract and involve people, community education will not mature.

The ultimate goal of community education is the achievement of a process for involving citizens in helping themselves through the identification, study and solution of common problems.

It is to this end that Crichton St. School will become the focal point for community activities within New Edinburgh. If you have any ideas as to how you would like to see the facility used, or if you would like to use the facility, or if you would like to take part in programming the facility for community functions, then please call Karl Parks at 741-1904 for more information.

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

Community notes

The executive committee of the New Edinburgh Community Association has been meeting almost continuously since it took office in April.

Currently plans are in the works to hold a special general membership meeting in September.

Traffic, the OMB hearings and the Mayor report will be discussed at that time, and residents will get a full report of your executive committee's activities in dealing with these issues.

* * * *

The New Edinburgh Day Nursery is accepting applications for

full and part-time enrollment starting with the beginning of the next school year.

The nursery is located in Crichton St. School where it was established two years ago as a non-profit corporation licensed under the Day Nurseries Act.

Further information can be obtained from the chairman, Mrs. Heather Matthews, at home 746-7419 or at work, 235-4586.

* * * *

The Rockcliffe Park library is open for use by New Edinburgh residents. It is located in the Rockcliffe Park Public School.

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

Published By The

New Edinburgh Community Association

A non-profit publication serving the New Edinburgh Community.

Advertising rates available on request.

This is an appeal to New Edinburgh residents interested in getting involved in the production of this newspaper.

When the community association started the newspaper last year, the idea was that interested area residents would participate.

To get things off the ground, three issues, including the March, 1976 one were produced by Algonquin College journalism students under the direction of Eleanor Dunn.

Students may be involved again in the fall, but the NECA executive would like to see a broader community involvement.

Producing a newspaper is not an easy task. But many hands make light work, as the old saying goes.

For instance, the typesetting and paste-up for this issue was done by Eleanor Dunn, and if there are any typographical errors, you have her apologies. This issue was set on an electric typewriter, thus the difference in type size from previous issues, and the ragged edge down one side of the news columns.

Advertising for this issue was sold by Maria Laurie, assisted by David Morgan. Advertising sales are an important function. Without advertising to pay our printing costs, we would not be able to have a newspaper. Maria and David did a yeoman job on this issue but we could use more help in this area.

We are planning another issue in late August, just before the school year begins. We have exhausted the backlog of feature material prepared by the Algonquin students. We need stories to fill our news columns. Surely there are some budding writers out there who'd like to see their names in print?

We are looking for good, general interest stuff. Historical material is also useful. Perhaps you have a neighbor with a fascinating and unusual hobby? The possibilities are endless.

Possibly you have something you'd like to sell, swap or exchange? You may have sporting equipment or a Brownie uniform your child has outgrown. If we get enough advertisements of this nature, we'll establish a "classified" column.

If you have material for the news columns you'd like to submit, please mail or drop same off at 34 Dufferin Road. We'd prefer typewritten copy, but if your handwriting is decipherable, we'll accept handwritten or printed material.

If there's enough interest, Eleanor says she's prepared to give a workshop on layout and paste-up after the holidays are over. She's also looking for a volunteer or two with electric typewriters who would be willing to assist with the typesetting.

O.M.B. hearings

(cont'd)

Later the executive will review an audio-visual presentation developed by the working group.

This presentation shows our Association's objections on these two matters in greater detail. By the time the OMB hearings resume in the fall, the executive will have reviewed and approved a plan of action involving suitable presentational information and data which will explain the objections of NECA to portions of the Official Plan. The two issues involved are very important to the development of New Edinburgh and the maintenance of its unique historical heritage and its generous quality of life endowments.

Our formal objections to the OMB in the fall represent our last chance to alter the course of planning in respect to the proposed Hemlock-Beechwood Corridor and the proposed extensions to the Vanier Arterial. If the two OMB commissioners chose to rule in favor of the Official Plan's recommendations on these two matters, our only recourse, if we oppose their decisions would be to appeal to the Cabinet of Ontario. Such an appeal would be costly and likely unsuccessful. In short, our presentation to the OMB next fall will be our last kick at the can.

New Edinburgh residents will be informed of the date the presentation will be made to the OMB. It is very important that as many members as possible attend the hearing on that evening to lend support to NECA president Bob Knox, who will be making the presentation on your behalf.

In spite of constant pressure from the Federation of Citizens' Associations, the OMB commissioners have rarely agreed to hold evening sessions to accommodate citizens whose job commitments prevent them from attending daytime sessions. There is a natural and understand-

dable reluctance on the part of the OMB commissioners and the legal counsel attending the hearings to agree to evening sessions.

Nevertheless, an effort must be made to ensure that direct participation by presidents of citizens' associations receives reasonable consideration by the commissioners. The NECA executive would welcome input from members on how to alleviate this problem. Would it be possible for some New Edinburgh residents to monitor the OMB's daytime hearings in the fall and report progress to the Association?

By altering the nature of the decisions to be handed down by the two OMB commissioners, we could force regional planners to revamp the Official Plan to:

- *significantly reduce the growth of unnecessary satellite communities.

- *recognize that the preservation of established communities is a first priority.

- *stop the building of arterial roads through urban areas.

- *radically improve public transportation quickly.

- *effectively involve citizens in the planning for transportation changes which will affect the communities in which they live.

- *prevent traffic engineers from designing any more Detroit-style expressways, and force them to thoroughly examine all existing alternatives.

- *consider carefully the effects of innovative changes such as expanded flexible working hours, weekly bus passes, reduction of parking spaces in the core area, closing the core area to private automobiles during rush hours, providing incentives to car pool users etc.

The new City of Ottawa Archives, located in the former St. Vincent de Paul School on Stanley Avenue were officially opened by Mayor Lorry Greenberg on Wednesday, June 15.

Flood by-law is beaten back

By Bill Jenkins

New Edinburgh residents came out ahead following the May 12 meeting of the Planning Board, which opened to public debate Zoning By-laws 233-76 and 23-77. It is these by-laws that declared substantial portions of New Edinburgh hazardous because they are "subject to flooding." Consequently, to the planners at City Hall,

they are not fit for human settlement. The by-laws would freeze new construction and severely restrict restoration and improvement of existing homes.

The by-laws would effect all the developed areas in Ottawa alongside the Rideau River, and several hundred citizens turned up at the Planning Board meeting to express the objections. The Board received briefs from

the New Edinburgh and Ottawa East Community Associations, and heard the critical views of several dozen citizens. The By-laws were condemned for being ill-conceived, unnecessary, and damaging to homeowners. They were criticized for making no distinction between areas where the risk of flooding was undeniable and areas where there might be the danger of a very minor flood once every hundred years.

There was universal agreement the by-laws would lower property values, jeopardize further development but provide no

protection to residents in the areas the planners claimed were subject to flooding.

The planning board was receptive

Finally the methodology of the engineering study that had established the so-called hazard area was severely questioned.

The Planning Board was receptive, and by the end of the meeting the by-laws had been suspended. The planners are back at their drawing boards and are to make new proposals, which hopefully will take into account the views and concerns of the citizens.

Program for kids at Overbrook school

This summer, there will be a program running from the Overbrook School at 149 King George Street for children six to 14 years of age.

The program will run from July 11 to August 11, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.

The cost for this program will be \$20.00 for the full five weeks.

The program will consist of various trips to museums, parks, boat rides, films, games and various other activities.

For further information, contact Karl Parks at 741-1904.

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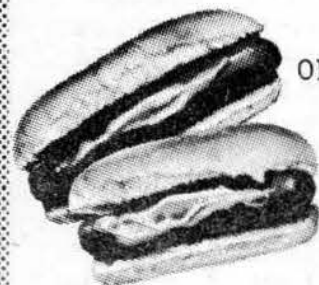
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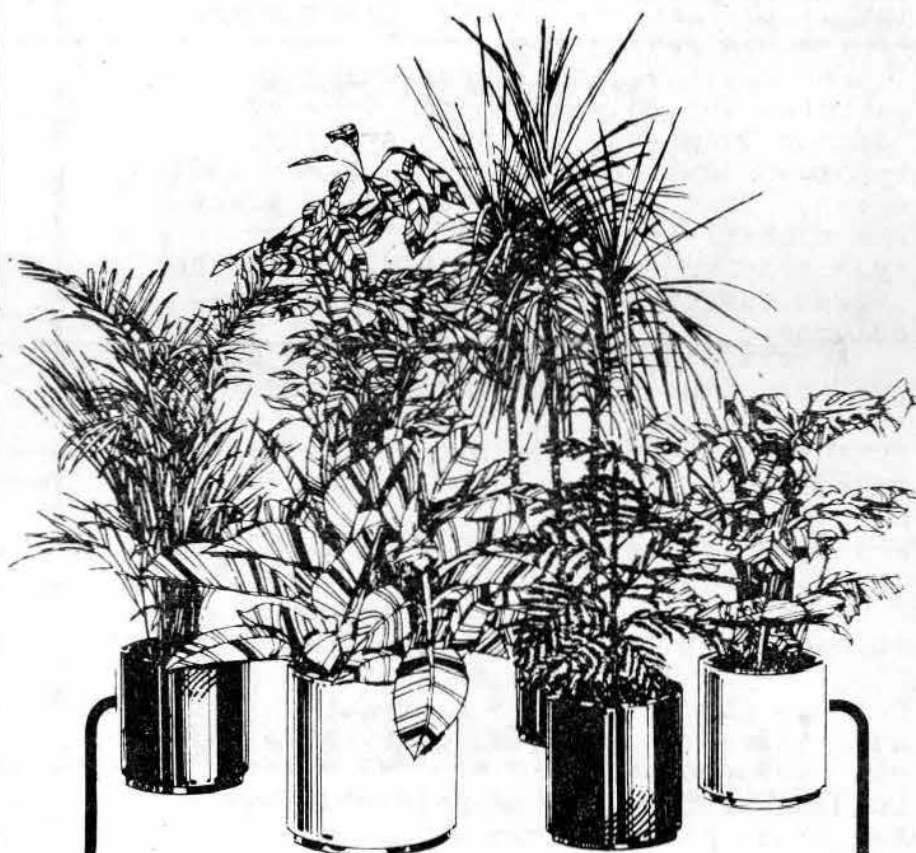
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The initial organizational meeting was held at Crichton St. School on April 21. A

film describing the program was shown, followed by further explanations by Pat Downing, Ottawa co-ordinator of the Block Parent programme, and Constable Doug Monroe of the Ottawa Police Department. The initial response has been very encouraging.

Applications to become Block Parents are accepted at any time. The local co-ordinators would be pleased to answer any questions or to receive any names of people interested in the program.

For further information, call Sally Hutchison at 749-0455, Maria Laurie at 741-5304 or Peggy Morgan at 745-3270.

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