

NEWSLETTER



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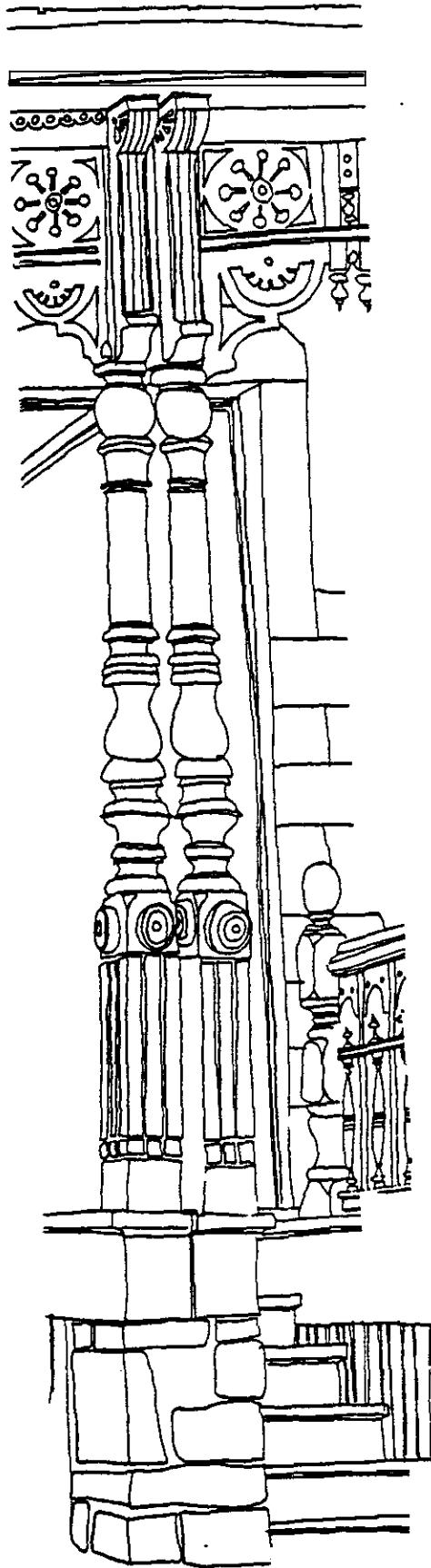
Streetcar #696

The efforts to return an Ottawa streetcar to the city, and to restore it, have passed another hurdle.

Streetcar 696 was sitting in the back lot of the Canadian Railway Museum in St. Constant, Que. The Museum generously agreed to let it return to Ottawa; and thanks to an offer of transportation from the developer Citicom, the streetcar is expected to reach Ottawa in late June. Restoration is planned by a citizens committee chaired by Canon Michael Iveson, with a view to locating #696 in Britannia Park.

Ottawa had the first electrically-heated streetcar system in the world, thanks to inventor Thomas Ahearn (in whose house, at 71 Bronson at Sparks St., Canon Iveson now works).

ICAM, the International Conference or Architectural Museums, is having its 5th International Congress in Ottawa & Montreal this October. It will bring architectural conservationists from around the world to our city. This is a very important symposium directly related to our cause and it has been suggested that Heritage Ottawa liaise in some way, perhaps in an "Ottawa Host" capacity. Any Heritage Ottawans who would be interested in this should call Heritage Ottawa's Vice President Mark Brandt at 230-3763.



William H. Whyte, City,
Rediscovering the Center,
Doubleday, New York, 1988.
Reviewed by Rhys Phillips.

Every once in a while a book appears with the potential to make things happen. Often it is less a blinding new theory than the galvanizing of shared wisdom which has never found official acceptance. William H. Whyte's City (subtitled *Rediscovering the Center*), a delightful exploration of urban life, is such a book.

Whyte, best known for his classic "The Organization Man", applied in 1969 for a National Geographic Foundation expedition grant - destination: New York City and eventually numerous other American, Canadian and other world cities of varying sizes. The strange and exotic habits of city dwellers and their environment was to be his subject.

"For the past sixteen years", he opens chapter one, "I have been walking the streets and public spaces of the city and watching how people use them." And here is the simple recipe of his success. Unlike too many urban planners who, when faced with a conflict between theory and reality, invariably chose theory, Whyte squarely starts from what actually happens on the street and slowly - sometimes almost painfully - draws out utterly critical insights on the health and well being of the city.

Using simple and time honoured tools such as observation, time lapse photography and basic numerical counts, he skillfully - and often humorously - establishes basic laws of success and failure. Why do some squares attract people while others repel? How do people use the sidewalks? What is the role of sun, shade, light, blank walls? And so on.

Equally important, for "people" are Whyte's primary starting point, he turns a keen and sympathetic eye on the inhabitants of the city, including the so-called undesirables. He has far less sympathy for the 'corporate exodus' led by companies which he devastatingly shows fared poorly in comparison to robust downtown located businesses.

A very readable book, City joins the works of Jane Jacobs, Humphrey Carver and others as a major weapon for those who believe in the exciting potential of the consolidation or rebirth of the vibrant city.



The CCA (Canadian Centre for Architecture) opened in Montreal recently to much deserved fanfare. This is a truly world class institution comprising a stunning modern building cradling around one of our country's most outstanding architectural preservation projects, the Shaunessy Mansion. Set amongst splendid grounds, the Centre is becoming a popular attraction for scholars, preservationist and the general public alike. The CCA and its excellent collections of world renowned architectural drawings and photographs is chiefly the brainchild of Phyllis Lambert, the distinguished architect, and community activist who started the Heritage Organization, Save Montreal.

It has been suggested that Heritage Ottawa organize an excursion to Montreal to visit the CCA and possibly other parts of the downtown area. It would take place in November on a Saturday or Sunday. Any members interested should place a call to our Executive Director, Sharon Brown at the Schoolhouse at 745-0551.

DEMOLITION OF WW-II HANGAR ON HOLD

Elmer MacKay, Minister of Public Works, plans to review the decision taken by the National Capital Commission to demolish Hangar 66, a municipally designated building. The Minister's action gave some hope to supporters who have campaigned vigorously to save the building.

The dismantling of two adjacent World War II hangars is already underway and time is running out for Hangar 66.

NCC Chairman Jean Pigott has argued that the hangar is a fire hazard, that it interferes with the alignment of a proposed parkway and that the federal government has no use for it. Preservationists claim that Pigott's case is groundless. Michael Fish, Montreal architect and 1987 winner of Heritage Canada's prestigious award for outstanding achievement in heritage conservation in the province, maintains that there is no reason that the road cannot be re-routed. Moreover, he says, it has been his experience "... that some wood structures (like the hangar), give a better fire rating than the kind of metal building which now houses the collection".

Supporters for the retention of Hangar 66 also believe that the 1940s building could serve multiple uses; they have suggested a practice arena for sports teams or an industrial commercial storage facility.

Groups campaigning for the preservation of the building receive further support from the Ontario Conservation Review Board, who, in a recent decision, said that Hangar 66 should be saved for its historic and architectural value. The Board felt that the hangar is of "national significance" and that Ottawa "has acted in the best interests of the people of Ontario in seeking to protect this property". Heritage Canada, Heritage Ottawa, the Ottawa CACAC, the RCAF Association, the Canadian Fighter Pilots Association, The War Amps, the Royal Canadian Legion, the Billy Bishop Museum and the Red River Tiger Moths Flying club continue to press the government to save Hangar 66. Readers are urged to write the Minister requesting that he take action on behalf of this historic building.

From IMPACT, May 1987, a publication of Heritage Canada.



11 179 MURRAY STREET

(From OUR ARCHITECTURAL ANCESTRY)

E.B. EDDY DIGESTOR TOWER

On behalf of Heritage Ottawa, V.P. Mark Brandt began investigating possibilities of saving the E.B. Eddy Digestor Tower last January. This structure has great heritage significance both architecturally and with respect to our industrial heritage. The tower was threatened with demolition by the NCC who estimated it would cost twice as much to stabilize it (i.e. to make it safe) than to tear it down. (Perhaps the NCC was forgetting that heritage makes up a significant portion of what makes this region a great Capital!!!)

During Mark's efforts to establish a "Friends of the Tower" committee, he found many enthusiastic supporters from a wide range of interests, including Dr. George MacDonald, the Director of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Heritage Ottawa's guest speaker at our 1988 Annual General Meeting). Together with Dr. MacDonald and Professor Trevor Boddy of Carleton's School of Architecture, Mark organized an event which turned out to be the key to turn support around for this heritage structure and change "the ugly duckling into a beautiful princess". (To quote Dr. MacDonald.) The event was announced by the Museum this way:

"The Canadian Museum of Civilization, along with Heritage Ottawa, the City of Hull, Carleton University School of Architecture, the Historical Society of the Gatineau, the Urban League of Ottawa and other community interests, is supporting a design charette (i.e. an intensive architectural 'Think-Tank') to create new ideas for:

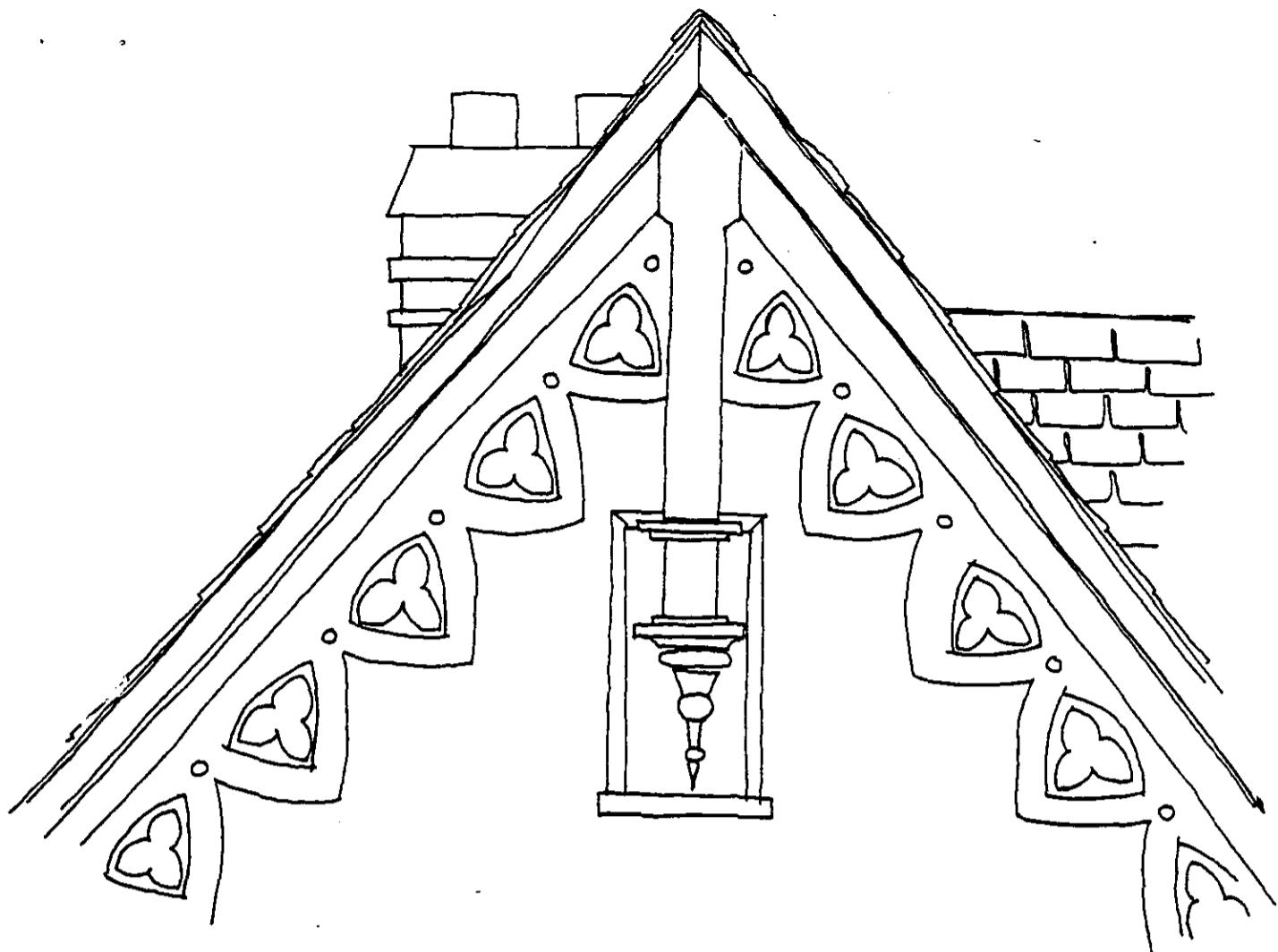
THE ADAPTIVE REUSE OF THE E.B. EDDY DIGESTOR TOWER

The tower, located immediately adjacent to the Museum, is a fitting monument to an important aspect of our national and regional heritage: the wood products industry. The charette seeks to propose a new use for this structure and to foster increased support for its preservation and adaption."

Eight teams of volunteer architects, designers and student architects, were assembled to participate in the charette, which took place Friday, February 17, to Monday Feb. 20.

The event wound up with the unveiling of the proposals (drawings and models) and declaration of the winners as judged by a distinguished jury, at a reception and press conference at noon on National Heritage Day, Monday, February 20, 1989 at the Maison du Citoyen, Hull. Mayor Legere presided over this exciting event and the press coverage was excellent, fostering further public support! The proposals were imaginative and intriguing. Shortly thereafter, it was announced the the NCC and Public Works had agreed upon a financial plan to save the Tower, thus proving that Heritage Activism can make a difference. We hope that this positive approach can be an example for future Heritage work in our Region (and, in fact, it is already. See the article in this issue on the Lansdowne Park charette). Look for future fund-raising program to aid the Museum in developing a re-use and new program for the tower and its surroundings. (For an idea of the view from the tower, look at the back of a one dollar bill! And do it fast!)





JIM DURRELL OFFERS TAX RELIEF

As the result of some correspondence between the Mayor of Ottawa and Richard Cannings, the President of Heritage Ottawa, there will be an opportunity for H.O. Members to ease their income tax burden.

According to the Mayor, the Membership may donate various new or used articles to H.O. These articles may include art objects, curios, new and used household or leisure furnishings; even services, such as cooking meals, cutting lawn, etc. The donated items will be auctioned by one of Ottawa's most prestigious auctioneers. The entire value of the sold items could be used by the Donors as CHARITABLE TAX DEDUCTIONS, according to the Canadian Income Tax Laws and Regulations.

H.O. President Cannings claims that the rules would allow accepting objects from people who are not members and they will be also eligible for the said tax deductions. Many of Ottawa's leading citizens and merchants have already indicated that they wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

Anyone desire to profit from his tax relief program, should call 754-0551, weekly 9:30 to 4:00.

There are several magazines where we might arrange an exchange of membership lists

Century Home (Port Hope, Ont.)

Building Renovation
(Maclean-Hunter, Toronto)

Canadian Housing (Can. Housing & Renewal Assoc., Ottawa)

You presumably are already familiar with association for preservation tech. ICOMOS

Ottawa Regional Society of Architect

Canadian Institute of Planners

Canadian Institute of Planners
(eastern Ontario)

Real Estate Board of Ottawa

Ottawa-Carleton Home Builders Association (Renovation Council)

Society for the Study of
Architecture in Canada

Historical Society of Ottawa

Update on Patterson Creek

On February 15, 1989, the National Capital Commission held an open house at First Avenue School to present plans for completing its Patterson Creek Retaining Wall Project. Phase I of the project was carried out in 1982, and at that time the stone retaining walls along Patterson Creek east of O'Connor Street were reconstructed in concrete; Phase II calls for similar treatment of the masonry wall around the small pond lying to the west of O'Connor Street and forming the tip of Patterson Creek. Many Glebe residents who saw the plans for Phase II felt they were not sympathetic to the heritage nature of the park and a follow up meeting was held at the Commission's Laurier Street offices on March 6.

The groups meeting with the NCC officials included concerned Glebe residents, several of them specialists in conservation and also members of heritage organizations.

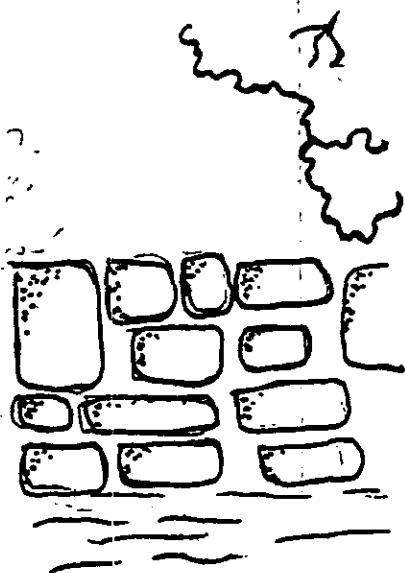
In their presentation to the officials, they pointed out that the park with its pond and stone retaining wall is one of the very few vestiges of the extensive beautification plans carried out by the Ottawa Improvement Commission between 1889 and 1925, and as such has important heritage value. It is one of the last examples of the picturesque style of the Rideau Canal and its related parks as they appeared at the turn of the century. Plans to widen the pathways, replace the masonry wall with poured concrete, add modern lighting and a fence with heavy concrete posts would be out of keeping with the original scale and landscaping of the park, and as well would threaten several of the eighty-year old trees beside the pond.

Although officials referred to the need for consistency with Phase I of the project, the group was not persuaded by this argument, feeling that Phase I had not taken the importance of the original design or materials into consideration and would be an inappropriate example to follow. Furthermore, the pond and its surrounding parkland are separated from the rest of the Creek by the O'Connor Street Bridge and form a self-contained environment, so that heritage treatment would not clash with the earlier work done during Phase I.

According to the National Capital Commission, one of the most important criteria for heritage restoration or replacement is the visibility it receives by the general public and visitors to their Nation's Capital; the Patterson Creek wall, being under water 5 months of the year and not within a highly visible area was not identified as heritage replacement. The wall is, however highly visible to people who live in the area and use the park. During the late fall winter and early spring, rough stones are far more appealing to the eye than a flat concrete surface would be, particularly when the latter becomes cracked and stained very quickly within a 5 years range e.g. Phase I. Even in summer when the pool is filled and the stone wall is partly covered, the reflection of its upper part adds to the charm of the area.

The determining factor is of course the costs involved. NCC officials estimate that additional funds of \$75,000 to \$100,000 would be required to preserve the existing stone wall, although many members of the group, including several conservation engineers and

architects, felt that the alternate option of stabilizing the wall had not been explored as figures were not based on a physical investigation of the existing wall, and might well prove less costly. In any case, due to a recent budgetary review, the Commission has decided to postpone the project for a year and will arrange a community meeting to provide the latest information once the work has been rescheduled. Perhaps this delay will give project officers a chance to incorporate the suggestions brought forward at the March 6 meeting into their plans. Readers of the Glebe Report will be kept informed of any new developments as they occur.



The Lansdown Park Charette, sponsored by Heritage Ottawa with the Urban League of Ottawa, last spring was a great success and made inroads into the political process and plans for the proposed redevelopment by the City. You can find out more about this great example of "Heritage Ottawa in Action" and view the designer's plans at an exhibit which is planned for September at the Schoolhouse, 62 John St. Our Gallery will have the models, drawings and sketches on exhibit along with a storyboard to detail how the events unfolded. An invitation with further details will be made to members in August. The committee welcomes anyone who would like to volunteer to help mount this exhibit and/or help out at the Opening Reception. Please call Sharon Brown at 745-0551. See you there!

From the desk of V.P. - Christine McGoun

A current membership drive is aimed at increasing our members so that a higher profile, and more credibility be attributed to Heritage Ottawa and its mandate to retain landmarks of value to our community. A nominal annual fee of \$15 brings you this Newsletter approximately 3 times a year, informing you of behind the scenes actions by active members on issues of which we are all concerned. This gives you the member the opportunity of being informed, and to volunteer your time and talents where most helpful. Your time and experience is ALWAYS needed, ALWAYS welcome. Call Sharon at our John Street Schoolhouse 745-0551 and find out where you'll fit!

FOR SALE

Manotick Heritage Home



Spacious 4 bdrm, brick historic home for sale, lovingly restored for family use & gracious entertaining.

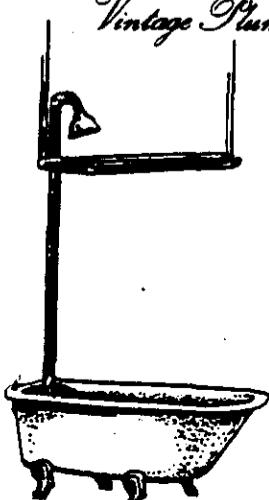
The best view in town, walking distance to all amenities, water access. \$265,000 private.

692-3912

The Board has commenced organization for a major Fund Raiser and Exhibit to be held in October. The subject of the exhibit is "The Byward Market in the 1930's". It is an excellent series of photographs of Market vendors and their shops taken in the '30's, which is now part of the Photograph collection of the Public Archives of Canada.

The Exhibit and it's opening night Vernissage will take place in the Byward Market and will be a vehicle for Heritage Ottawa to raise it's profile in the City Land hopefully it's coffers!!) Volunteers for a range of activities are needed to stage this event. If you are interested or feel you might be able to help, please call Sharon Brown at 745-0551. An announcement with further details will be mailed to Members in September - but the organization requirements are now - so please don't wait to volunteer.

Vintage Plumbing



Heritage Ottawa

Invites you to join us for
a walking tour of
Lowertown Ottawa



Sunday, August 20, 1989 4 p.m.

Meeting place: Front entrance of the Chateau Laurier

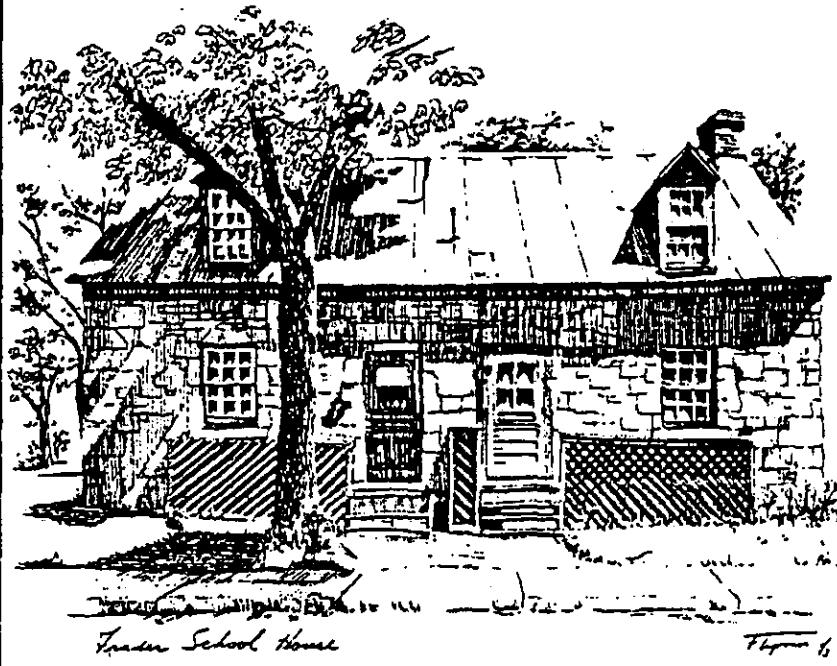
For further information - please call 745-0551

Tour is free of charge

Illustration by David Lewis from "Up the Street of Ontario"

Heritage Ottawa

PRESENTS



A WALKING TOUR OF NEW EDINBURGH

Starting point - "The Fraser Schoolhouse"

62 John Street (off of Sussex)*

Monday July 31 6:00 p.m.

Monday August 21 6:00 p.m.

Monday September 4 Labour Day
6:00 p.m.

Monday September 18 6:00 p.m.

All tours are free of charge.

* Bus #3 HUROMAN

For further information call 745-0551