

by Wanda McConnell

A new firehall for East Elmwood, located in Montcalm Park at Nairn Avenue and Watt Street, may be in place by 1986.

The East Kildonan-Transcona community committee at its regular meeting March 26, approved the proposal with the stipulation that the remaining active and passive area of Montcalm Park be left intact.

That clause was necessary, explained councillor Alf Skowron (Elmwood Ward) in an interview, because the Manitoba Lawn Bowling Society had also requested use of the site. To develop the bowling lawns and indoor carpet bowling facilities would require the removal of many of the stately trees in the park and reduce the area of parkland for public use.

Although joint use of the park by the fire department and lawn bowlers is feasible, the clause makes the likelihood "remote to nil," Skowron said.

Meanwhile he said that although Montcalm Park was once a busy neighborhood gathering place, heavy traffic that

came with the opening of the Nairn Overpass has reduced use of the park.

The fire station proposal was made by the Fire Station Location Steering Committee. It recommends that the present #2 Fire Station at 56 Maple Street be closed upon completion of the new East Elmwood fire station.

The steering committee's recommendation is based on findings made in the Fire Station Location Study for Transcona. That August, 1984 study was done with the use of a \$30,000 extensive computer program which pinpointed areas lacking adequate fire coverage. It revealed that east Transcona and East Elmwood were in critical need of more fire coverage.

Skowron said the proposal is welcome news for residents in the area who petitioned last year to prevent the firehall at Talbot and Stadacona (now used by a private gymnastics club) from becoming a lounge and banquet hall and instead have it reopened as a fire station.

The proposal must now go to the standing committee on finance and on to city council for final approval in the five-year capital budget. If it receives approval, Skowron said the firehall will be built in 1986.

Meanwhile construction could begin any day now on the new firehall at Rosseau Avenue and Day Street in Transcona, says Transcona councillor Reg Wyatt. The building permit was to be taken out last week so construction should commence right away.

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