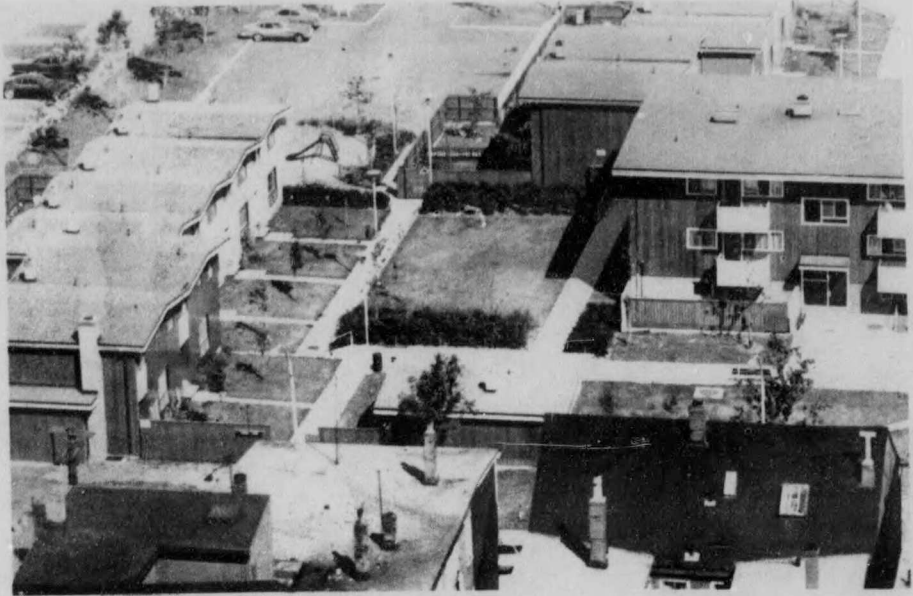


and eventual ruin over the past sixty years, the Slip gradually assumed the nature of a menace. Although spokesmen repeatedly urged that the site be somehow preserved or at least honoured for its historic value, nothing was to be done, and only the filling-in of the Slip solved what had become a desperate problem. Whatever its future, it now is an unpaved parking lot. If the Slip did represent a historical statement on behalf of Saint John, then it is best that it was covered over, for it was uncomfortable to look at.

The end of the great lumber and timber era was the end of the province's high hopes. The world was entering the age of steel and steam towards the end of the nineteenth century, and New Brunswick, a province of wood and sails, floundered with few reserves to salvage its cargo. Toward the last quarter of the century, Saint John's prosperous days were numbered.

The last word of grace to be bestowed on Saint John was the Great Fire of 1877, which



This is an example of the re-development in the South End of Saint John. These are city projects that are improving vastly the living conditions and appearance of the area.

burned to the ground in two days some thousands of the city's dwellings, an unparalleled disaster from which the city has yet to recover.

To see Saint John, one of the

most immediate impressions you note is the apparent age of so many buildings. Of the some 14,500 dwellings in the city, 78% of them were built previous to

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"1,584 dwellings in Saint John are without exclusive use of a flush toilet, and 3,527 without exclusive use of a bath or shower."