

APPENDIX P

Excerpted from ***TOWARDS THE IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY IN THE SACKVILLE RIVER WATERSHED, NOVA SCOTIA*** by Rhea D. Mahar, Department of Geography, Saint Mary's University, 1994

This study by Rhea D. Mahar identifies 40 Environmentally Sensitive Areas in the Sackville River Watershed between Mt. Uniacke and the Bedford Basin. The top ranked ESLs are #1, Tomahawk Lake (largely because it is a water reserve for the city), #2, Sandy Lake, and #3, the Old Quarry Corridor along the Sackville River.

Mahar's thesis introduces a new criterion for Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). Previously, an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) "contains features such as: headwaters, unusual plants, wildlife or landforms, breeding or overwintering animal habitats, rare or endangered species, or combinations of habitat and landform which could be valuable for scientific or conservation education." (P. 15) Mahar's new criterion is based on social significance of local natural areas. Mahar comments on the distress that is caused to people when local natural areas are destroyed. "There could be a link between the presence of natural areas for their own sake and the presence of natural areas as a "balm to the spirit". (P.10) In 2017, we know this to be so, and the Green Network itself is a result of that knowledge as much as for other important reasons.

However, the polarity between the market ethic approach and the ecological ethic is still strong. As Mahar states, "the *real* (sic) world is not simply an economic world. Should land adjacent to the periphery of urban areas be given over to development simply because the criteria for determining the value of that land is based on dollars and not necessarily on who or what resides or utilizes the land? There is a holistic quality to life that is often disregarded in arguments for preserving natural areas.

Stamps (1992, 1989, 1991) has been monitoring a trend in public expression of the importance of: the presence of trees in an urban setting, environmental aesthetics and public involvement in planning decisions. Perhaps this interest in planning decisions is from the experiences of destruction of sentimentally-valuable areas near settlements. A case in point in the Sackville River watershed is the Bedford Barrens issue. Petroglyphs were 'discovered' on prime land zoned for development (Figs. 2 & 3). Without having legislation in place to respect the intrinsic value of the Barrens to the Mi'kmaq and the local residents, an incredible amount of confusion has ensued and matters are still unsettled (Jones, 1994). Local residents who are not Mi'kmaq refer to the Barrens as "the centre of our sanity", and as a retreat where one's spirit may be refreshed (Mangalam, J. in Edwards, 1993, p.6).

On a very personal level, there is often an almost religious experience for people in natural areas (Soule, 1986). For others describing the remorse with the destruction of a natural area is like trying to describe the feeling with an old friend; it is valuable and when it is gone there is a deep sense of loss."