

Submitted by John Gilhen, naturalist - 7 August 2008

1. A stream flowing from Ash Lake, Nine Mile River Watershed (1EJ-11), 44° 41.411N, 63° 44.502 W

2. Upper Sheldrake Lake, Woodens River Watershed (1EJ-13), 44° 40.863 N, 63° 47.812 W

Both watersheds are in Theme Region 400: Atlantic Interior. Stream from Ash Lake occupies 451: Granite Uplands and Upper Sheldrake Lake 460: Bays.

The herpetofauna of both areas are very much the same in terms of species composition, and common to these areas. I'm confident there are no breeding populations of vulnerable, threatened or endangered species of reptiles present in either watershed.

These aquatic sites and the damp woodland surrounding them are classic habitat for the common species of amphibians and reptiles.

For example, during the time we walked to the stream I observed seven juvenile Green Frogs, two adult Pickerel Frogs and two Maritime Garter Snakes. I turned over about 10 granite rocks at the edge of mixed woods (of mostly maples, fir and spruce) and found two Eastern Red-backed Salamanders. There were Green Frogs in every cattail pond along wet ditches where grasses, sedges and cattails were present.

There were two Beaver dams on this stream. At the bridge the water was running quite clear as we could see the gravel bottom. The sides of the stream were quite boggy. No doubt Snapping Turtles and Eastern Painted Turtles are present in the lake and travel this stream.

Upper Sheldrake Lake is a typical lake for the area in having soft bottom shallows and banked by heath and mixed woods. There is some sphagnum in the woods along the path to the lake and Four-toed Salamanders may be present.

I did not see the entire corridor but if the wetlands are much the same I have no problem with the construction of Route # 113. I have included a list of amphibian and reptile species.

Taxonomic List of Amphibians and Reptiles Native to Halifax West.

KINGDOM Animalia – animals
PHYLUM Chordata - chordates
SUBPHYLUM Vertebrata - vertebrates
CLASS Amphibia – amphibians

ORDER Caudata – salamanders

 Salamandridae – Newts

Eastern Red-spotted Newt, *Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens* (Rafinesque, 1820)

Ambystomatidae – Mole Salamanders

Yellow-spotted Salamander, *Ambystoma maculatum* (Shaw, 1802)

Plethodontidae – Lungless Salamanders

Eastern Redback Salamander, *Plethodon cinereus* (Green, 1818)

*** Four-toed Salamander, *Hemidactylium scutatum* (Temminck and Schlegel)**

* Possibly occurs at both sites

SUBCLASS Lissamphibia

SUPERORDER _____Salientia
ORDER _____Anura - frogs, toads

Bufonidae – Toads

Eastern American Toad, *Bufo americanus americanus* Holbrook, 1836

Hylidae – Treefrogs

Northern Spring Peeper, *Pseudacris crucifer crucifer* (Weid-Neuwied, 1838)

Ranidae – Ranid Frogs

Bull Frog, *Rana catesbeianus* Shaw, 1802

Green Frog, *Rana clamitans melanotus* (Rafinesque, 1820)

Wood Frog, *Rana sylvatica sylvaticus* LeConte, 1825

Pickerel Frog, *Rana palustris* LeConte, 1825

Northern Leopard Frog, *Rana pipiens* Schreber, 1782

ORDER Testudines – terrapins, tortoises

Chelydridae – Snapping Turtles

Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina serpentina* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Emydidae – Pond Turtles, Terrapins

Eastern Painted Turtle, *Chrysemys picta picta* (Schneider, 1783)

ORDER Squamata – amphisbaenians, lizards

SUBORDER Serpents – snakes

Natricidae – Harmless Live-bearing Snakes

Northern Redbelly Snake, *Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata* (Storer, 1839)

Maritime Garter Snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis pallidulus* Allen, 1899

Dipsadidae - Slender Rear-fanged Snakes

Northern Ringneck Snake, *Diadophis punctatus edwardsii* (Merrem, 1820)

Colubridae - Harmless Egg-laying Snakes

Eastern (Maritime) Smooth Green Snake, *Liochlorophis vernalis (borealis)* (Harlan, 1827)