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August 17, 2010

Councillor Robert Harvey, Chair
North West Community Council

Dear Councillor Harvey,

On behalf of the Sackville Drive Business Association and Sackville Rivers Association, we respectfully request that NWCC investigate opportunities for a pocket park at the East corner of the Downsview Mall property located at 710 Sackville Drive. We feel this piece of property is extremely strategic because of its connection to the Sackville River and high visibility from Sackville Drive.

This land is also strategic in that it will be an important link in the proposed Sackville River trail system. Both the park land at Downsview Mall and Acadia Hall as well as the river trails system and were identified in the *Sackville Drive Streetscape Design Study* (adopted by Council in 2002).

We also feel there may be an opportunity to purchase the property or enter into a long-term lease with the property owner, Crombie REIT, as the vast majority of land is not able to be developed because of flood plains and landscape set-backs (see attachment 1). As it stands now, Crombie REIT is responsible for maintenance with little opportunity for income.

Currently, this area is overgrown with weeds and bushes and the focal point is the chain link fence that surrounds the storm ponds (see attachment 2). With the planned work on the Little Sackville bridge, even more attention will be paid to this area. The plan for the bridge includes a look-off (over looking the property in question) as well as stairs linking the bridge to the property (see attachment 3).

Simply adding some trees to conceal the chain link fence, grass, a pathway and a few benches would go a long way improve this viewpoint from the improved bridge and take this property from an expansive and unsightly open area between the library, (a central meeting and public use area in Sackville) and the largest retail area with a very high visibility and traffic and pedestrian numbers for this part of HRM, to a positive focal point for the street. There is opportunity for HRM to access funding (50%) to purchase trees through Trees Canada.

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Champniss
Executive Director

Cc: Walter Regan, Sackville Rivers Association
Linda Hefler, Acadia Recreation Association