

Northern Pen, Monday, Aug. 09/04

## Limestone Barrens a unique landscape

Attracting plant enthusiasts, experts and visitors from around the globe, the Limestone Barrens are a point of interest which adds to the many things to discover at Port au Choix National Historic Site.

The Port Au Choix National Historic Site, which is 8 sq. km in size, is home to more than 47 rare species of plants. Among these species are the beautiful and rare Woolly Arnica (*Arnica angustifolia* subsp.

*tomentosa*); Wild Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum* var. *sibiricum*); and Fernalds Braya (*Braya fernaldii*), which has been designated as Threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

Maggie John, acting site supervisor stated, "Right outside our door here at Port au Choix National Historic Site, visitors will see and explore a landscape that is unique to the Limestone Barrens." She continued by saying, "a guided 'Wildflower Tour', lead

by Shirley Alyward, the Limestone Barrens interpreter, departs from the Visitor Centre Monday to Friday. Participants receive a wealth of information about the plants, geology and climate of the area. Providing public education on the barrens helps ensure responsible use and protection of the area."

The Limestone Barrens interpreter position was made possible through a partnership between Parks Canada and the Town of Port au Choix. Ms. Alyward is enjoying this opportunity: "I

am delighted to be a part of such a great education and conservation effort and welcome the opportunity to share the beauty of the Limestone Barrens by presenting interpretation programs and engaging the different audiences at the site."

In addition to interpreting the Barrens, Ms. Alyward also provides field support to researchers from Memorial University and Parks Canada, and works to help achieve the goals of the Port au Choix Green Team.



The Limestone Barrens at Port au Choix National attracts visitors from around the world.