



Dulcie House (centre) is joined by Ren White and Ron Letto in reviewing places in the area of the Sandy Cove airstrip where endangered species signs will be posted.

Signs warn public of rare plants

An effort is being made to advise the public of the presence of rare plants on the limestone barrens of the Northern Peninsula.

It's a project of the provincial government with assistance from the Limestone Barrens Habitat Stewardship Program.

Under the signage program, a total of 60 signs will be erected – 20 this fall and the remainder in 2006.

Twenty signs each are earmarked for three species: Fernald's Braya, Long's Braya and Barren's Willow.

Dulcie House, co-ordinator of the stewardship program, says it's important for the public to be aware of the signs and the message they convey.

"People may not even know they are destroying plants unless we have some way of letting them know," she explains.

The signs protecting Long's Braya are specified for the airstrip area at Sandy Cove, Yankee Point, the Sandy Cove crusher, the Lions Club at Sandy Cove, and Shoal Cove East. The Fernald's Braya signs will be in the Cape Norman, Green

Island Brook, Anchor Point and Port au Choix areas,

while the Barren's Willow will be acknowledged at

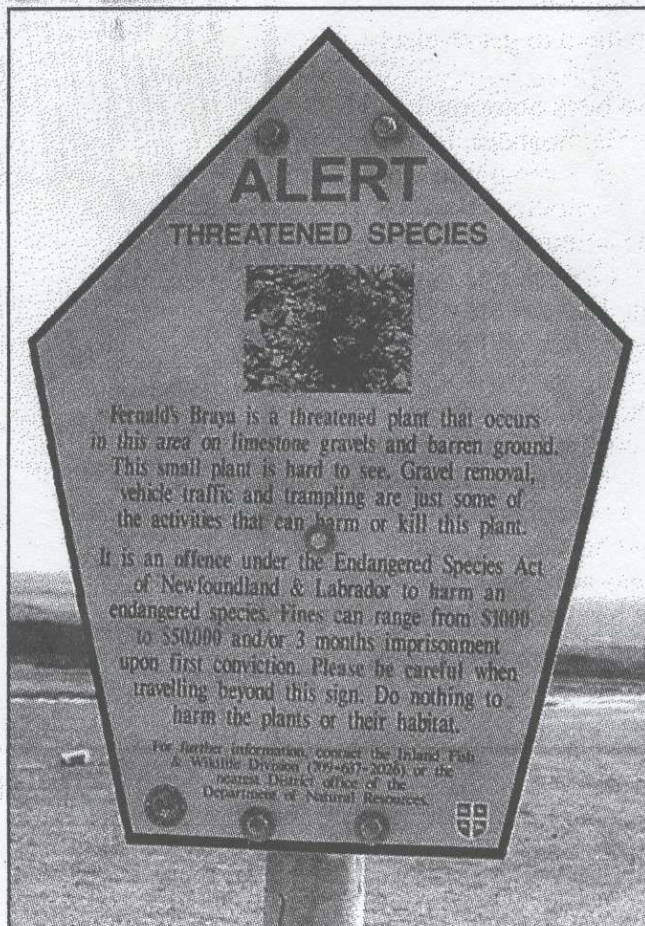
Cape Norman and Boat Harbour.

The signs warn of a threatened species and advises the public that it's an offence under the Endangered Species Act to harm such a plant. Fines can range from \$1,000 to \$50,000 and/or three months imprisonment upon first conviction. The public is warned to be careful when travelling beyond the signs.

In addition to the province and the stewardship program, support for the signage has come from Ren White, who runs a wholesale business at Sandy Cove and makes use of the runway for business. Mr. White, along with pilot Ron Letto, recently reviewed the signs and looked at places where they could be situated in the Sandy Cove area.

The sites were also reviewed by Brent Keeping, a botanist with the endangered species sector of the province's wildlife division.

Ms. House says the signage, along with support from partners such as businesspeople, will go a long way towards protecting some plant species that are found nowhere else in the world.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

New signage alerts the public of the presence of endangered species of plants on the Limestone Barrens.