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The Northern Peninsula is home to a variety of rare and interesting flowers and plants. Efforts are under way to protect the flora and fauna for future generations.

## STEWARDSHIP

# An emphasis on preserving, protecting

The future of rare plants and unique habitat rests in the hands of the people who live in the vicinity of these things. Under that premise, some residents of the Northern Peninsula are leaving a legacy for future generations that can be enjoyed by local people and visitors.

They are pledging to preserve its rare plants and unique habitat through the implementation of stewardship initiatives. Commitments have been made to use this 'fragile' habitat responsibly.

Straits Elementary School, the municipality of Flowers Cove and landowners in Sandy Cove are at the forefront of this move. The work continues this year, which began over two years ago, with the signing of three stewardship agreements last fall at the school in Flowers Cove.

Straits Elementary has earned the distinction of becoming the first school in Canada to sign a land stewardship agreement. People take pride in the fact that the place they call home is globally significant in the variety of plant species that grow here on the limestone barrens.

The limestone barrens of the Northern Peninsula are globally significant because they are home to the world's total population of Long's Braya, Fernald's Braya, Barrens Willow and the Burnt Cape Cinquefoil.

In an effort to protect this unique habitat, many partners are working together under the Limestone Barrens Habitat Stewardship Program.

Community interpreters offer guided tours and interpretation of rare plants at Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve. At the Port au Choix National Historic Site, a trail crosses the limestone barrens and interpreters at the Visitor Centre can point out some of the special features of the barrens.