

Northern Pen Oct. 2, 2006

Ecotourism conference planned for Plum Point

A conference which aims to explore conservation and sustainable ecotourism will be held Oct. 12 and 13 at Plum Point.

The conference, which is being organized by the Limestone Barrens Habitat Stewardship Program, is described as the first of its kind for the Great Northern Peninsula.

Program co-ordinator Dulcie House says that with the increasing emphasis on ecotourism, there's a need to ensure that any ecotourism development is designed to be sustainable, both economically and ecologically.

Special keynote speakers include: Dr. Brendan Dunford of Burren, Ireland; and Wavey

Greenham and Elizabeth Smith of the Friends of Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve in Raleigh; and botanist Sue Meades.

Other speakers represent Memorial University (biology and geography departments, and the Botanical Gardens); Department of Environment and Conservation (Wildlife and

Parks and Natural Areas divisions); the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College; and Parks Canada including members of the Limestone Barrens Species at Risk Recovery Team. In addition, practitioners in ecotourism will be present to speak on their experiences.

One of the highlights of the

conference will be a performance by students at Straits Elementary in Flowers Cove. Their presentation of 'Species at Risk' takes place on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.

The conference is being held at the Plum Point Motel.

In addition, an open house will be held on Oct. 12 from 7-9 p.m.