

Plan unveiled to protect rare moss

A rare moss, clinging to the cliffs between Cape Onion and Noddy Bay, just got a whole lot of attention.

The provincial government recently unveiled a recovery plan for Porsild's Bryum. The rare moss is found only on the Northern Peninsula in addition to the Canadian Arctic, the Rocky Mountains, Greenland, Alaska, Central Asia and Michigan.

It's an endangered species and, according to Joe Brazil of the province's Wildlife Division, will always be one.

"It has very specific habitat requirements and we don't anticipate finding more," said Mr. Brazil. "Because of its rarity, it will always be at risk."

The recovery plan will demand research, population monitoring and protection from the Wildlife Division.

"This plant is only found on remote cliffs that are hard to get at and dangerous to be around – so that's really protection enough," said Mr. Brazil.

Dulcie House, program co-ordinator for the Limestone Barrens Habitat Stewardship Program (LBHSP), said she was pleased with the news.

"This announcement fits perfectly with efforts of the LBHSP initiatives to raise awareness of this 'rare and fragile habitat', to protect and conserve it for present and future generations," said Ms. House.



Porsild's Bryum is a rare moss that recently received a recovery plan from the Department of Environment and Conservation. In Newfoundland it's located solely on the Northern Peninsula, between Cape Onion and Noddy Bay.

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