Peninsula plants placed on endangered, protected list

Several plants on the Northern Peninsula are getting special treatment from the provincial government.

The Longs Braya, Barrens Willow, Fernald's Braya and the Fernald's Milk-vetch join a list of 20 plants and animals which will now be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Julie Bettney, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, announced earlier this month that these 20 species, which are classed as either endangered, threatened or vulnerable, must be protected.

"Government is committed to protecting and preserving species which are identified to be at risk. We want to ensure the appropriate measures are in place to protect species which are in danger of becoming, extinct," she stated. "This listing not only protects the species but also its residence."

The department's decision was based in part on recommendations by the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

The list, which also includes several birds and animals which frequent Northern Newfoundland and Labrador, is as follows:

■ Endangered — Newfoundland population of the American martin, wolverine, piping plover, Eskimo curlew, Longs Braya, Barrens Willow.

Threatened — Fernald's Braya, anatum peregrine falcon, woodland caribou herds in the Mealy Mountain, Red Wine and Lac Joseph areas, tundra peregrine falcon.

Wulnerable — Banded killifish, Barrow's goldeneye, Fernald's milk-vetch, boreal felt lichen, harlequin duck, ivory' gull, polar bear, short-eared owl. Withern Fen Man 1968/62