

**A REPORT ON A BOTANICAL SURVEY, BILCON PROPERTY,
WHITES COVE, LITTLE RIVER, DIGBY COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA**

Prepared for

Bilcon of Nova Scotia
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By

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The purpose of this botanical survey was to determine if Rock Spikemoss, Selaginella Rupestris, or any other rare or endangered plants, occur on rock outcrops on Bilcon property at Whites Cove, the site of a proposed basalt quarry.

Rarity Status of Selaginella Rupestris

Historically in Nova Scotia, Selaginella Rupestris was known only from two North Mountain sites on Digby Neck in the 1950's: the summit of Shoebel's Mountain in Sandy Cove and on rock outcrops east of Centreville. (Roland / Zinck 1998, Roland's Flora of Nova Scotia). It had not been seen recently and was considered probably extirpated by 2001.

In October 2002, I rediscovered the Centreville population at the crest of the mountain. This discovery led to the possibility that *S. Rupestris* may also occur in similar habitat throughout Digby Neck.

Preferred Habitat of S. Rupestris

Based on habitat encountered at the Centreville site, the actual summit of the North Mountain, consisting of an exposed, southern facing rock face provided the largest populations. Smaller populations were encountered on other basalt outcrops on the Bay of Fundy slope from the summit.

Scope of Search

Assisted by Brent Newell, a careful search was made of the rock face defining the summit of the North Mountain within the Bilcon property. This section begins in the west within the clear cut and continues roughly northeasterly through standing timber back to the Whites Cove Road. The rock face exits the Bilcon property just east of this road. Random searches were undertaken of rock outcrops in the clear cut area south of the Whites Cove Road and the "grubbed off" section directly above Whites Cove. See attached map #6 (Terrestrial Ecology, Vegetative Cover & Plant Surveys) showing areas searched in red. Total time on site was approximately 5.5 hours.

Results of Search

No *Selaginella Rupestris* or other rare or endangered plants were encountered in this search.