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Environmental Events Coming Up

It seems like every window I pass these days has a poster in it describing an upcoming festival or summer event. Though mainly music festivals, I am also noticing more and more environmental awareness events. Before the summer comes to an end, I thought I would give readers an idea of what some of them are.

I will start with an event, which is taking place this weekend. The second annual "Green Festival" touts itself as a celebration of community, ecology and music. Located in Clairville, New Brunswick, just 30 minutes north of Moncton, this festival offers on-site camping; an organic farmers market; a craft fair; hiking trails; hay rides; workshops, presentations and discussion; and great Atlantic musicians. More than 45 bands crossing many genres of music are expected to perform at the event this weekend making it very much a celebration.

Coming up September 12-13 is an event I have wanted to attend for several years now, the Falls Brook Centre Fall Fair. Now in its 15th year, the annual fair features music, food, forestry forums, local vendors and businesses as well as workshops and site tours! It takes place at the Falls Brook Centre in Knowlesville, New Brunswick near Hartland. The Falls Brook Centre is a sustainable community demonstration and training centre in rural New Brunswick. Located on 400 acres of Acadian forest and farmland, Falls Brook Centre strives to promote exemplary sustainable practices in farming and forestry through their organic gardens, orchards, forest trails and promotion of ecological certification. The Falls Brook Centre is where the ever-popular and multi-coloured Climate-Change Bus originates.

Finally, if you care about the environment, and enjoy cycling too, this event may really interest you. Pedal for the Planet is a national bike relay organized by a coalition of more than 40 Canadian environmental and social-justice groups called Kyotoplus which started on July 3 and has since been taking place in different cities across the country.

A new climate treaty will be negotiated during international climate talks in Copenhagen, Denmark in December. Canada now stands out as one of the last major industrialized countries opposed to targets for deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and one of the biggest blockers of climate change negotiations. As such, the purpose of 'the pedal' is to raise awareness about climate change, and gather signatures on a petition along the way. It will be presented in Ottawa on September 18th and is intended to send a strong message to our government that they support a new progressive climate treaty in Copenhagen.

The Pedal for the Planet committee in Fredericton has put together a local ride scheduled for August 26th. People of all ages and skill level are invited to meet at 11am Wednesday morning at the Devon Trail Visitor Centre (180 Station Road) for a 45-minute bike ride led by popular local musician Joel Leblanc. The ride will culminate in Officers Square with a rally at the finish line. So as not to lose momentum the committee has also organized a celebratory event at Dolan's Pub that same evening. Starting at 7pm, performances by local musicians such as The Hardcore Troubadours, Mark Roberts, Jimmie Deliverance & Mountain Chicken, Barry Hughes and more. Information about Pedal for the Planet will be on hand as well as information on conservation, active transportation and commuting, plus there will be lots of great door prizes donated by local businesses!

Green events and festivals give us opportunities to celebrate and learn more about the environment. For more information on the events and festivals listed above visit the following websites:

www.thegreenfestival.ca/

www.fallsbrookcentre.ca

www.kyotoplus.ca/pedal

Valerie Hillier is a Frederictonian who tries to tread lightly on the earth; and notices when other people do too! If you have a topic you would like our Green Matters writers to write about e-mail us at greenmatters@fredericton.ca.