



The Daily Gleaner

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Celebrate Canadian Environment Week!

To mark national Clean Air Day and World Environment Day, the Government of Canada has declared June 1 – 7, Canadian Environment Week. The City of Fredericton has a number of events planned, which are all open to the public and free of charge. We hope you can help us celebrate Canadian Environment Week; here are a few ways which you can help this week and everyday.

First things first, Canada has marked Wednesday, June 4 as Clean Air Day. What better way to clean the air, then to plant a tree? Between 12noon and 2pm on Wednesday, join Green Matters and JD Irving Limited as we giveaway young seedlings for you to plant in a special place. We are thankful as well to receive the assistance of Jobs Unlimited in transferring individual seedlings into their take-home packaging.

Next up, Thursday, June 5 has been designated World Environment Day by the United Nations. We are celebrating with a Green Matters Eco-Fair taking place between 10am and 4pm at the Fredericton Playhouse. There will be a variety of exhibitors set up which will be of interest to businesses, families, students, educators, etc. From micro-fibre technology to information on native plant life; there will be information on alternative power sources, energy efficiency audits and renovations, healthy lawn care, environmental activism, backyard composting, biodegradable garbage and leaf bags, safe and certified cleaning products. There will be something for everyone to learn.

Friday, June 6 marks the Commuter Challenge in Fredericton. If you haven't already, dust off your bikes and walking shoes, and choose to take the low-carbon way to work next Friday! Coffee will be given out, and Radical Edge will be doing mini bike tune ups – all free of charge. We will be set up at the south end of the Walking Bridge between 7am and 9am and hope to catch you on your way to work.

Finally, on Saturday, June 7, Green Matters is partnering with the very popular annual event, Fredericton Riverfest. Between 10am and 3pm you can swing by Officers' Square where there will be plenty going on for the entire family to enjoy at the River Jubilee which consists of the Summer Gear Swap and Fiddle Fest. In addition, exhibitors will be set up all day including the infamous Climate Change Bus, Fredericton's Green Matters campaign, and the St. John River Society. And also on Saturday, to complete the week's environmental festivities, Riverfest and Green Matters are partnering on a special presentation of "An Inconvenient Truth" given by Al Gore-trained Carl Duivenvoorden taking place at 3:30pm at the Crowne Plaza Fredericton.

When all this is over and done, however, what matters most is that we all carry forward everything we've learned, experienced and celebrated during Environment Week. There is so much you can do everyday to reduce your carbon footprint and celebrate the environment. Help make the world (and our city) a healthier, cleaner and greener place to live and use some of these eco-actions in your everyday life:

- Buy local
- Take the no-carbon way to work – walk, bike, etc.
- Take the Bus
- Use reusable bags when shopping
- Hang your clothes out to dry
- Keep an organic lawn and garden
- Compost
- Change a light bulb to CFL

Valerie Hillier lives in Fredericton and works for the Playhouse. She continually looks for ways to challenge herself and others to do more for the health of our planet. For many more 'green' tips visit www.greenmattersfredericton.com.