



ATLANTIC CANADA CHAPTER
North East Avalon Group

Newsletter

ISSUE #1 FALL OCTOBER 2006

It is with enormous enthusiasm we welcome all members and readers to the first Newsletter for the Northeast Avalon Group of the Sierra Club of Canada Atlantic Chapter.

This Newsletter was developed to keep you up to date with local events. We hope that future editions of this Newsletter will compose themselves as local members share their stories and issues.

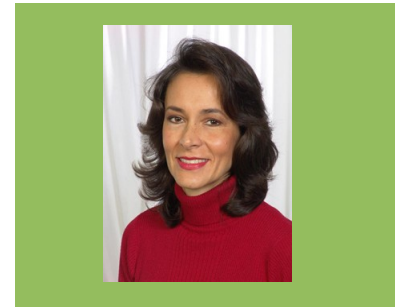
As this is the first edition, we would also be grateful for your feedback on the content and style of the Newsletter. If you have any comments or contributions to make for the next edition please email us at:

northeastavalon@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

There is nothing in the plans right now per say, but I'm sure we can all come up with something if we put our heads together. Fall is a wonderful time of year for a brisk walk in the crisp air, maybe a harvest gathering - Who knows? Then on to winter with glistening snow covered trails great for bundling up and heading out for skiing or tobogganing with the kiddies and some hot cocoa. There are so many things we can do and we would like to hear from you!

Do you have an idea for a fun group event? Do you know of an important event that we should attend? Please let us know!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lucia Salazar has been a member with our group Since March 2006. Lucia has attended member meetings and hosted a wonderful Gardening Naturally Workshop for us on Earth Day.

Lucia's Top Causes:

Deforestation

Community Recycling

Reduction in energy consumption

Lucia's Eco Tip:

Don't idle the engine of your car. Idling is killing all of us.

Would you like to be profiled in or Member Spotlight? Do you have an Eco Tip to tell us? What are you doing to help the environment? Have you just started recycling or have you hosted a community event? Please let us know!

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING?

Local Environmental topics

Pesticides

Waste Management

- Bags
- Blue box
- Litter

Climate Change

- Alternative Energy, efficiency
- Air Pollution
- Holyrood generating station
- New refinery in Placentia bay
- Natural Gas pipelines and tankers

Land use urban planning and development

- Transportation
- Green Space
- Oil tank Contaminated sites - map sites
- Environmental assessment

Wildlife and plant protection

- Hunting regulations
- Natural areas
- Duck Pond
- Forestry

Water Issues

- Fish Farming/Aquaculture

Well, a lot has happened since the formation of our group back in March. We have had five meetings where we discussed the many issues facing our area. We had a wonderful Earth Day gardening workshop hosted by Lucia Salazar. We had booths and handed out information at landscaping shows and had a members hike at Butterpot park. I'm sure there are a few other things I can't recall, but anyway so far so good.

One of the main issues I would like to focus on, is the discussions we have had about forming subcommittees for the many environmental issues facing the Northeast Avalon.

We would like to hear thoughts and opinions from all of our members on the categories we have discussed as seen to the left.

Judie Squires

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Another summer is behind us and shorter, cooler days of autumn are here again. In Newfoundland, this is often the time when new activities begin and this is the case with our new group newsletter. The idea is to provide a simple and inexpensive medium of communication between members of our local group.

It's been a full year now since serious efforts began to set up a formal Sierra group in Newfoundland, and we can certainly be satisfied with the progress that we have made so far. It is natural we have diverse interests and areas where we wish to focus our volunteer energy, we continue to meet regularly and have definite plans for the future.

The one area where we have not succeeded as much as we would have liked is in our ability to involve Sierra Club members in the Northeast Avalon area. We know that you're out there because you took the time to join the Sierra Club of Canada but we don't hear much from you. It's to address this issue that Judie Squires has undertaken to put together this newsletter with information for the membership on what we're up to as a group. We invite anyone to contribute, and hope that this will serve to promote a stronger group that can help tackle the range of environmental issues which confront us here on the Avalon Peninsula.

Peter Earle

TAKE ACTION TIPS

- It's never too late to start composting. With all the fruits *and veggies* of the harvest be sure to gather all the leftovers this thanksgiving and give thanks to the environment by composting!
- With the crisp fall air it's easy to forget and leave the vehicle running. Idling wastes fuel and sends harmful gases into the air contributing to smog and climate change. Try to decrease unnecessary vehicle idling.

Reduce "warm-up" idling to 30 seconds and turn your engine off if parked for more than 10 seconds.
- Ask your municipality to get involved to reduce wood smoke pollution with the [model municipal by-law](#) from Environment Canada.

FUELING THE FIRE



Environment Canada's Facts

-In Canada, residential wood heating is responsible for 29% of the fine particle emissions associated with human activities. This makes it the third most important source overall.

-Wood smoke contains over 100 pollutants. These pollutants not only negatively impact the environment but are also linked to a wide range of health problems.

[Residential Wood Heating Facts](#)

This is a summary of the full article that is available through Environment Canada's Public Information Website ([Click here](#))

Winter is on the way and with that comes home heating. Wood burning is a way some people choose to heat their homes. However, that cozy fire can reduce the quality of our air, in fact, residential wood burning is a major contributor to smog causing health and environmental problems even at relatively low levels.

When wood is burning, the flames appear on one part of the log while smoke arises from several areas. This smoke is caused by incomplete combustion of the wood. It contains a mix of hazardous particles and chemicals that are distilled out of the wood or formed during its combustion. Also unburned gases collect on the chimney walls as an oily toxic residue known as creosote.

To effectively eliminate pollution from wood heating, you would have to refrain from burning wood altogether. If you choose wood heating, smoke pollution can be considerably reduced if you improve your wood burning practices. It is also important that you consider all the available heating alternatives.

How to burn cleaner:

To have an efficient fire with low wood smoke emissions you need to burn only dry clean wood. If you tap the wood with a metal object, dry wood should make a sharp echoing sound, wet wood makes a dull sound. Choose a stove that is approved by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA environmental performance standard B.415.1-04) or by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ensure that both the unit and the chimney are installed correctly and are regularly maintained.

CONTACTS

Chair [Peter Earle](#)

Vice Chair [Paul Rideout](#)

Treasurer [Marjorie Evans](#)

Events coordinator [Derek James](#)

Spokesperson [Dan Ficken](#)

Secretary & Editor [Judie Squires](#)

FUN FOR KIDS!

Here's a downloadable eco-calander filled with fun and amazing facts for kids! - Well Ok; and adults too. I have one! Get yours today. [Click on the image.](#)



Do you have comments about any of the stories in this newsletter? Need to subscribe or unsubscribe? Or are you interested in submitting an article? If so, please send an email to the Editor: Judie Squires
northeastavalon@gmail.com

Quarterly Newsletter will be published in October (Fall), January (Winter), April (Spring) and July (Summer)