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## Working together to protect Lake Simcoe: for our future

You may have noticed that Explore Lake Simcoe is no longer sending out two newsletters a month. For 2017 we have decided to prepare only one newsletter a month, but that does not mean there isn't as much happening. In fact, it is just the opposite.

On Feb. 9th, ELS had it's first face-to-face educational/networking meeting. We would like to extend our appreciation to MEC Barrie staff for hosting the event and delivering the educational content. The meeting was a good opportunity to exchange ideas.

Our [on-line assessment](#) has been revised and we encourage you to try

## Maximum energy efficiency in your own watershed

*Passive house exceeds standards*

The Lake Simcoe watershed is home to a number of hidden environmental innovations. One of these is a lovingly-constructed Passive House in Innisfil. Passive house standards are the world's most stringent set of building guidelines to maximize energy conservation and efficiency.

[Learn More](#)

## MEC Barrie building tour and networking event

*Thanks to MEC staff for an informative start to the day*

On the morning of Feb. 9th, MEC Barrie was kind enough to host the first Explore Lake Simcoe networking event. This event gave participants the opportunity to learn about sustainable building design and to discuss environmental business philosophy and how to involve employees.

out the new version. This update gives users a fairer way to measure environmental efforts. Take note of your score the first time you take the assessment and try to improve it over time.

We look forward to reporting on the results of the #nostrawchallenge in our March newsletter. This is just the start of other positive initiatives, as a number of business' are now taking steps to reduce cigarette litter.

There is a significant number of people who work and live around Lake Simcoe who care deeply about the lake for the enjoyment, beauty, and economic opportunities it provides. Join us in taking steps forward to ensure this valuable resource remains protected. Schedule a meeting with our Sustainable Tourism coordinator to identify how your business can adopt environmentally-sustainable practices.

*To see where you can improve on your triple bottom line download the free [Green Tourism Toolkit](#). You can request one specific to your sector.*

[Learn More](#)

## How to choose eco-friendly take-out food containers

*Disposal is not the only consideration*

Take a moment to learn how to evaluate take-out food service-ware through an environmental lens. Each stage in the lifecycle of the product should be considered.

[Learn More](#)

## Butts flowing down the storm drain?

*Working to eliminate cigarette litter around Lake Simcoe*

According to the Ocean Conservancy, cigarette litter is the number one item found during marine clean ups. In fact, estimates suggest that globally, "1.69 BILLION pounds of butts wind up as toxic trash each year" equating to as many as "4.95 trillion" butts. Certainly at a local level, cigarette litter is unsightly and a nuisance, but it also poses an environmental threat.

[Learn more](#)

**Contact our Project Coordinator to assist you in implementing green initiatives suitable to your business**

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