

## **Forests Ontario Celebrates 30 Years of Ontario Envirothon**

- [Forests Ontario](#) is proud to be the lead agency of [Ontario Envirothon](#) – a unique, environmentally-themed academic competition that immerses students in hands-on learning, discovery, and building STEM skills.
- Over 120 schools and more than 10,000 students have participated in the Ontario Envirothon since the program launched in 1994.

**Barrie, Ont. (March 13, 2024)** – For the past 30 years, Ontario Envirothon has helped create the next generation of environmental stewards by providing students with hands-on experiences in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils, wildlife, and current environmental issues, as well as team-based activities designed to develop critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, leadership, and communication skills.

Ontario Envirothon challenges high school students (grade 9 to 12, aged 14-19) to showcase their environmental knowledge for a chance to advance to the National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon, an annual, international competition that brings together hundreds of students from across North America and Asia and features prizes and scholarships.

“Forests Ontario is proud to be the lead agency of Ontario Envirothon, an incredibly special program that gives budding environmental leaders the chance to explore education and career paths in the natural sciences and network with potential mentors,” Jess Kaknevcicius, CEO of Forests Ontario, says. “Ontario Envirothon has reached over 10,000 students since 1994, and it wouldn’t be the success that it is without the efforts of the program’s educators, volunteers, judges, and sponsors, including lead sponsor [Maple Leaves Forever](#), whose support means the world to us and all the students that benefit from the program.”

In the 2024 Ontario Envirothon, students will learn about biodiversity and its importance to ecosystems, analyze the impact that climate change has on the diversity of living things and ecosystems, and begin to understand the social, economic, and cultural importance of biodiversity.

“I believe that programs like the Envirothon are critical in a digital age to demonstrate all the various environmental fields that are available for students to explore as they continue with their education,” Kelly Jamieson, Ontario Envirothon alumni and Senior Project Manager, Restoration Projects at Toronto Region Conservation Authority, says. “The Envirothon made it possible for me to think about pursuing a career in an environmental field so that I could maintain my interest in environmental issues and proceed to make a difference on our ecological landscapes.”

The 2024 Ontario Envirothon program will consist of in-person [regional events in select communities](#), and an in-person provincial event hosted at the University of Waterloo from May 26-29, 2024. [Online Registration](#) for the 2024 Ontario Envirothon is open until March 22, 2024.

“Everyone at Forests Ontario is incredibly grateful to all the past and present sponsors of Ontario Envirothon, including Maple Leaves Forever, Algonquin Forestry Authority, The McLean Foundation, Fleming College, and Durham College,” Allison Hands, Education Manager, Forests Ontario, says. “The program’s generous sponsors, and all our amazing teachers and volunteers throughout Ontario, make this a really special opportunity for students.”

In 2023, 48 teams from communities across Ontario competed in virtual and in-person Ontario Envirothon events, with York Region's Markville Secondary School crowned as the [Ontario Envirothon champion](#) before placing 3<sup>rd</sup> at NCF-Envirothon.

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**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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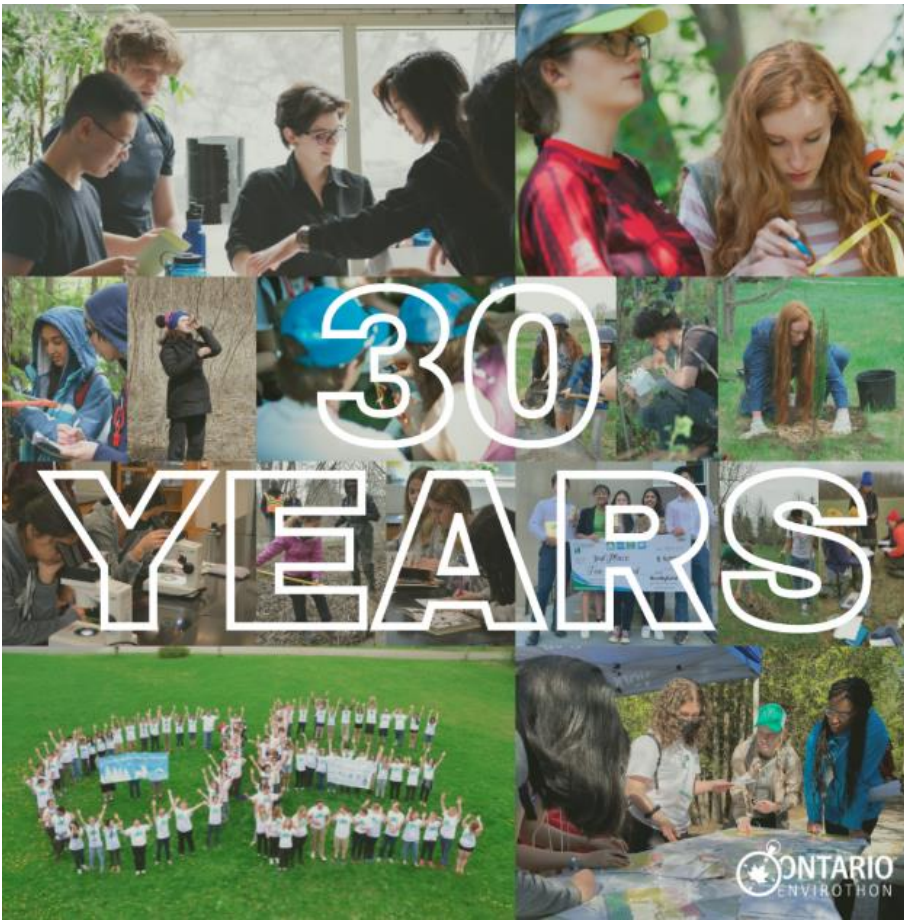
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**About Forests Ontario**

**Forests Ontario** is the province's leading charity dedicated to the creation, preservation, and maintenance of forest and grassland habitats. Our ambitious, large-scale tree planting initiatives, extensive educational programs, and decades of community outreach result in millions of trees being planted each year.

Visit [www.forestsontario.ca](http://www.forestsontario.ca) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#) to find out more.

**Photo**



Caption: Forests Ontario celebrates 30 years of Ontario Envirothon.