

## **Forests Canada Recognizes Algoma's Guy Smith for Dedication to Forest Education**

- From the annual collection of millions of viable tree seeds to building a comprehensive network of experienced planting partners who care about the long-term health of Canada's forested landscapes, non-profit charity [Forests Canada](#) is a leading advocate of healthy ecosystems and economies.

**Barrie, Ont. (March 11, 2025)** – As Canadians face the growing threat of extreme weather events, high-intensity forest fires, and biodiversity loss, [Forests Canada](#) hosted [The Forest Conference](#) on February 19 and 20 in Mississauga, Ontario to bring experts from different fields together to talk about how we can conserve, restore, and grow Canada's forests. During the conference, Forests Canada announced its annual award winners, including Algoma's Guy Smith, who received the Maple Leaves Forever Ontario Envirothon Award.

The award recognized Smith for having demonstrated exceptional leadership, involvement, and dedication to the [Ontario Envirothon](#), a unique, environmentally-themed, annual academic competition that immerses students in hands-on learning and discovery. Through Ontario Envirothon, Forests Canada and volunteers like Smith offer budding environmental leaders a chance to explore education and career paths in the natural sciences and network with potential mentors.

Smith holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Toronto. After 36 years of employment with the Canadian Forestry Service in many different roles, he retired in 2023 but has maintained his involvement with the Ontario Envirothon program for over 30 years and counting. Since co-founding Algoma Envirothon in 1994, Guy's guidance and support have enabled students to compete confidently, work effectively as a team, and develop a deeper understanding of the natural world through hands-on outdoor education.

"When I look back on those years, I see teams of young people, their energy for outdoor learning, and their potential to shape the future of natural resources management and nature conservation," Smith says.

The forested beauty of the Algoma area offers natural assets for an incomparable Envirothon experience. Sites abound for outdoor learning in the core Envirothon program areas of forests, soils, aquatics, and wildlife. Each year, some 50 area students and their teachers participate in activity days, culminating in a spring competition at Stokely Creek Lodge in Goulais River. At the end of the Ontario Envirothon, teams of students put their hard-earned knowledge to the test for the chance to represent Ontario in the NCF-Envirothon against top teams from Canada and the United States.

"Volunteers contribute their time and expertise to deliver and enrich the Envirothon experience," Allison Hands, Education Manager, Forests Canada, says. "As Algoma Envirothon turns 30, this is the perfect time to recognize Guy with this award. He has been invaluable to Ontario Envirothon and has helped countless students develop critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, leadership, and communication skills."

High school students or educators who want to learn more or register for Ontario Envirothon can learn more at [www.forestscanada.ca](http://www.forestscanada.ca). The full list of Forests Canada 2025 award winners is also available in the Forests Canada Newsroom at [www.forestscanada.ca/en/articles/news](http://www.forestscanada.ca/en/articles/news).

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**About Forests Canada**

From the annual collection of millions of viable tree seeds to building a comprehensive network of experienced planting partners who care about the long-term health of Canada's forested landscapes, non-profit charity Forests Canada is a leading advocate of healthy ecosystems and economies. With interactive education programs inspiring the next generation of forest stewards, and high-quality restoration programs supporting local jobs and communities, we have proudly built the infrastructure needed to ensure the greatest possible outcomes for Canada's forests from coast to coast.

We conserve, restore and grow Canada's forests to sustain life and communities. Visit [www.ForestsCanada.ca](http://www.ForestsCanada.ca) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#) to find out more.

**Photo**

Caption: Algoma Envirothon Chair and Forests Canada 2025 award winner Guy Smith.