



Welcome to the A-2 Environment Newsletter! This is your platform to share tips and celebrate all the ways our A-2 clubs protect and restore the environment and ensure sustainable operations of all our facilities and events.

Water Rangers – A New Opportunity!

We in A-2 border on two Great Lakes and the rivers and streams that flow into and sustain them. Have you ever thought of what our impact might be on the quality of water in our local rivers and lakes? Now you can help find out!

The Lake Erie Water Rangers are one of many community-science based organizations that contribute water quality data to an on-line open database.

If the quality of the water in your local stream or lake interests you, you can have a look at the available information, and you can participate in collecting it!

(Photos from Water Rangers website)

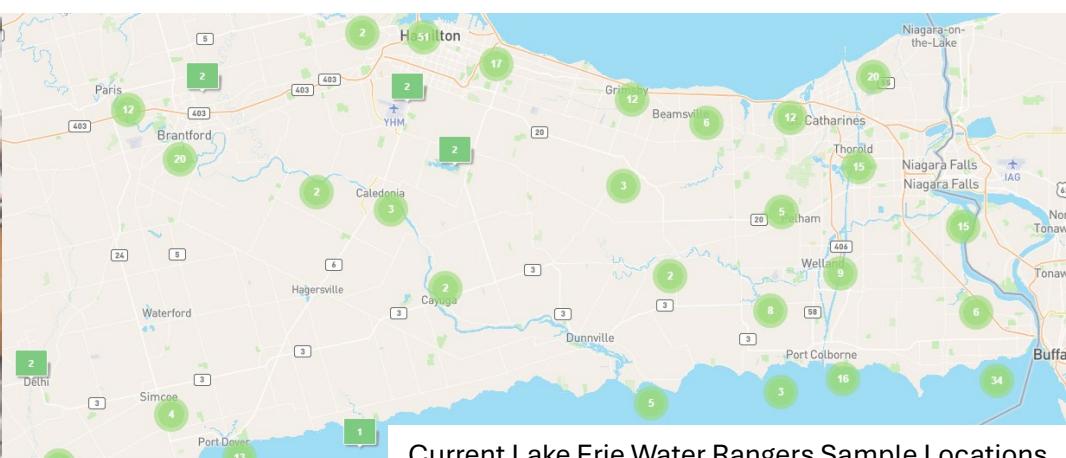


Are you ready for the Photo Contest?

Our annual photo contest is coming up! Winners will be voted on at the A2 Friendship Convention in March.

Lions, Leos, and Lion Lioness Cubs may submit one (1) printed photo- 20.3cm x 25.4cm (8 inch x 10 inch) from each category for a total of two (2) submitted photos. Digital and hard copies must be received no later than Mon, 9 March, 2026. See contest guidelines attached to this newsletter.

Grimsby Lions participated in November and December sampling and testing at Confederation Park and Beamers Falls for the Lake Erie Water Rangers. The results are posted on a [publicly available website](#).



Current Lake Erie Water Rangers Sample Locations

The Water Rangers website shows data from across Ontario (and around the world) collected by communities and citizens just like you! The Lake Erie Rangers have been able to provide testing kits to interested citizen-scientists thanks to a grant from the Canada Water Agency. The next kits will become available in spring of 2026.

Salt your Driveway?

Road and driveway salt are a necessary feature of winter in Ontario, as a safety measure for slippery surfaces. However when the snow melts, salt in the runoff is harmful to water quality and wildlife. One of the testing kits provided by Lake Erie Water Rangers is focused on measuring dissolved chloride, the impact of our road salt on local waterways.

Week of Service for the Environment (April 18-26, 2026)

Lions International has designated April 18-26th, 2026 as the [Week of Service for All Lions for the Environment](#). LCIF offers a wide variety of grant programs to empower Lions projects for our week of service. Want to find out more about how Lions and Leos are working to protect the environment? [Environment Resources](#)

Clubs are encouraged to create videos of their Week of Service projects and upload them to the Video Showcase.

Dates for the video submissions:

Roles/Activities	Environment April 18-26, 2026
Clubs upload videos to Jotform	May 8, 2026, 12pm CST
Area leaders select top videos	May 15, 2026
CA leaders select top videos	May 22, 2026
Online Video Showcase	June 8, 2026



A2 Lions Pawpaw Parade 2024



Did You Know There is a Tropical Fruit Grown in Ontario?

You may not know this, but a tropical tasting fruit, the Pawpaw, grows in southern Ontario. There are few original groves left, but Norfolk County is home to at least some of them. Long Point Eco-Adventures was host to a pawpaw themed "farm to fork" evening in October that showcased the fruit and had plants for sale to local gardeners¹.

If you would like to win or purchase pawpaws to plant in your own garden and help this tree thrive, watch for the Pawpaw Parade hosted by [Carolinian Canada](#).

¹Source: J.P. Antonacci, Hamilton Spectator Nov 17, 2025

Fonthill Lions Support Biodiversity

This past year the Fonthill Lions Club has planted 20 trees on their clubhouse property. This has continued a tradition of planting trees, a great way to support local biodiversity. The Club has also supported other environmental projects this past year, including several other tree planting projects and shoreline/bank stabilization projects. Although a relatively small Club, Fonthill Lions has an outsized impact on the community donating to over 22 local health and youth organizations volunteering in over 15 local events (some on a monthly basis)!



Grimsby Wetlands

If your club is looking for projects to support, you should know that the Grimsby Wetlands has some opportunities!

The Friends of the Grimsby Wetlands and Hamilton Naturalists Club maintain the former lagoon system for the benefit of geese, ducks and other migrating shore birds, nesting Killdeer, Tree Swallows and Purple Martins, turtles, snakes, muskrats and all the plant species the wildlife depend on.

The volunteers continue to remove invasive Buckthorn shrubs and can always use help with that. Anyone interested in maintaining the nesting sites and boxes can also receive the necessary orientation and training to take that on.

Please contact Lion Bruce Mackenzie from the Grimsby and District Club for more information. Lion Bruce will be making a presentation on the Grimsby Wetlands to the Hamilton Naturalists Club on January 12, 2026. For more information see hamiltonnature.org

Least Bittern in Grimsby Wetlands
Photo by Kathy Johnson



A-2 LIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST GUIDELINES 2025- 2026

The MDA Lions Environmental Photo Contest provides a way for Lions, Leos, and Lion Lioness Cubs to portray, through an original photo, their pride and commitment to improving, protecting and preserving the environment. Every District within MDA that is in good standing can submit an original unaltered, black and white or colour photo in each category through the District Chair. The photograph should depict the local environment of the community the Cubs serves. They must therefore be taken within the geographic area of the MDA.

Entry Guidelines: The competition invites photos depicting these two categories:

1. Our Natural Environment:

Example: Animal life, Landscape - Urban or Natural, Plant Life or Weather Phenomenon - without people,

2. Lions in Environmental Service:

People are allowed in these photos highlighting our service work with the environment.

Lions, Leos, and Lion Lioness Cubs may submit one (1) printed photo- 20.3cm x 25.4cm (8 inch x 10 inch) from each category for a total of two (2) submitted photos. Digital and hard copies must be received **no later than Mon, 9 March, 2026** by the District Environment Chair in advance of the March 27-29 2026 District A-2 Friendship Convention. Please state which category, plus the photographer's name and Club, and a title for the photograph. Email to: tlynnbul@hotmail.com

Submit your hard copy photos to:

Lion Terri Bulman,
71 Dorchester Dr,
Grimsby ON L3M1A9

While at the District A-2 Convention, registered attendees will vote for their favourite photos. The two (2) winning photos - one (1) from each category- will be sent on to the MDA Convention in St Catharines ON taking place on May 29-31, 2026 where the registered MDA convention attendees will vote for their favourite photos. All District A submitted photos to MDA will appear on the MDA website.