

# Forest University – 50 Years Young



The exhibition ‘Forest University – 50 Years Young’ is a vividly illustrated exhibition that describes the launch of Forest University during the Cold War, depicts its evolution and global growth, and presents an engaging portrait of its activities and people today. The exhibition opened in Toronto in 2017, and has been shown in New York City and throughout Estonia in 2018.

Forest University (*Metsäülikool*) is a unique week-long Estonian cultural and language immersion program held annually since 1967 at Camp Kotkajärve in Muskoka, Canada. Founded by members of the Estonian-Canadian community, Forest University focuses on Estonian language retention and communication. For over fifty years, this unique program has helped Estonians abroad maintain a bond with the homeland, and build strong bridges between cultural communities in Estonia and the diaspora.

Presented as a gift to Estonia for its centennial, the Forest University jubilee exhibition is itself a collaboration between Estonians abroad and in the homeland. While the project steering committee is in Toronto, designer Elle Palumäe and writer Lea Kreinin are in Estonia.

The exhibition has been supported by the Compatriots Program 2014-2020 (Estonian Ministry of Culture), the *Hasartmaksumängu* Council of Estonia, and the Estonian Studies Centre and the Lokk family in Toronto, Canada.

For information about Kotkajärve Metsäülikool, please visit [www.eesti.ca/mu](http://www.eesti.ca/mu)