



## News Release

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### *You're Invited!*

#### ***Phragmites Information Meeting***

*Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00pm*

*Heritage Hall,*

*Purple Woods Conservation Area*

*38 Coates Road East, North Oshawa*



Have you seen the tall, yellowish, swaying reeds and feathery plumes as you drive along the roads in Durham Region? It looks pretty and harmless but did you know this plant is invasive and threatens habitats such as wetlands. The plant, is called Phragmites (pronounced "frag-mite-ees") (*Phragmites australis*), is also known as Common Reed, and it presents a significant threat to watershed health across southern Ontario.

The Scugog Environmental Advisory Council, in partnership with Central Lake Ontario Conservation, Kawartha Conservation, North Durham Nature, Scugog Lake Stewards and Nature Conservancy of Canada are hosting a Phragmites Information Meeting with renowned wetland ecologist and *Phragmites* activist **Janice M Gilbert Ph.D.** The event will take place on **April 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00pm** at **Heritage Hall, Purple Woods Conservation Area, 38 Coates Road East, North Oshawa.** The public is invited to come out and learn about this invasive plant, what you can do to stop it, and meet community members that are working together to establish an invasive species management program for Phragmites.

"Phragmites is extremely aggressive, spreads quickly and can reach heights of up to 5 metres (15 feet), allowing it to out compete native plant species therefore reducing wildlife habitat," Says Diana Shermet, Natural Heritage Resource Analyst with Central Lake Ontario Conservation. "With the plant's ability to spread quickly, we need everyone's help to control it while it is still manageable in the watershed but time is running out."

For more information on the Phragmites Meeting please contact Diana Shermet at the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Office (905) 579-0411, ext. 107 or email: [dshermet@cloca.com](mailto:dshermet@cloca.com).

***Healthy watersheds for today and tomorrow.***