



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Invasive Species Guided Hike

Invasive exotic species are a growing threat throughout Ontario. These plants and pests are not native to Ontario but have entered our local ecosystems through human practices and have established themselves, outcompeting or killing off our native species.

Most invasive exotic species have no natural enemies here in Ontario to keep them in check, as they do in their own part of the world, allowing them to proliferate. Invasive plants crowd out our native plants, reducing availability of food and habitat for native wildlife. Invasive pests also kill off native species, such as the newly established emerald ash borer which kills almost all species of ash trees, or the Asian longhorned beetle which targets maples and other trees.

A good local example is the current battle in the Northumberland County Forest with dog-strangling vine (DSV), an invasive plant from Russia used in gardens. A 100 acre infestation of DSV has choked out most native plants in its path. Luckily it is still at a point where it can hopefully be contained and eventually eliminated over time and the County Forest staff have acted quickly to get this process started.

On June 11th partners of the Caring for the Moraine Project and the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative are putting on a FREE guided hike through the Northumberland County Forest to teach property owners how to identify many of these invasive species found close to home, and discuss options to protect their property.

The June 11th hike will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Beagle Club Cross Country Ski parking area, Beagle Club Road off County Road 45, about 15 minutes north of Cobourg. Registration is appreciated although not required.

For more information about this workshop or the Caring for the Moraine Project please contact Ashley Wilson – Landowner Contact Specialist, Rice Lake Plains, 613-394-3915 ext 225, ricelakeplains@ltc.on.ca.

The Rice Lake Plains Area is the most eastern section of the Oak Ridges Moraine, running east from the Alnwick/Haldimand Township boundary and includes areas in and around Fenella, Roseneath, Burnley, Centreton and Castleton.

The Caring for the Moraine Project in the Rice Lake Plains Area is made available through a partnership of organizations including Alderville First Nation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, Lower Trent

Conservation, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Northumberland County, Northumberland Land Trust, Northumberland Stewardship Council, Ontario Parks and Tallgrass Ontario. Funding for this program is provided by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation as well as the partners listed above. The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation was founded in 2002 to help protect, preserve and restore the Oak Ridges Moraine, a prominent geological formation stretching 160 km across Southern Ontario and key in protecting our water resources. Please visit www.moraineforlife.org for more info.

For further information please contact:

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