

## **INTRODUCTION**

West Nile Virus (WNV) was first detected in Peel in birds and mosquitoes in 2001. Locally acquired human cases of WNV occurred the first time in 2002. There were 57 residents (37 confirmed, 20 probable) of Peel who had laboratory evidence of WNV infection during the 2002 season, two of these cases died. The majority of the cases resided in Mississauga. In 2003, there were only 10 human cases and no deaths reported in Peel. Mississauga continued to be the area in Peel with the highest WNV risk as all 10 human cases of WNV were Mississauga residents. In 2004, no human cases were reported in Peel. In 2005, there were three residents of Peel who had laboratory evidence of WNV infection. Two of the human cases resided in Mississauga and one was in Brampton. There were no deaths in Peel due WNV in 2005.

**Human Case Surveillance for West Nile Virus  
Region of Peel, 2002 - 2005**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Cases</b>
2002	57
2003	10
2004	0
2005	3

A combination of increased public awareness, source reduction and the larviciding of catch basins and surface waters likely have combined to contribute to Peel having relatively few human cases since 2002.

### **2006 Plan Direction**

At this point it is reasonable to assume that the virus has established itself in North America and will return to Peel at some level in 2006. How much human illness will occur in 2006 is impossible to predict given our limited experience with WNV. The extent to which WNV causes illness in Peel on a consistent basis in the future will determine the need for, and scale of an ongoing WNV program.

In 2003, Peel Health developed a West Nile Virus Prevention Plan. The goal of this plan was to minimize the impact of WNV through region-wide surveillance that directed integrated mosquito management based mosquito activities at a level commensurate to the risk of human illness. In 2006, Peel Public Health's WNV Prevention Plan will follow the blueprint used in previous years. Surveillance activities (birds, mosquitoes, humans), public education and a mosquito reduction program will be continued in all three local municipalities in Peel Region.