

## **West Nile Virus in Peel Update August 27, 2003**

This is a regular update on the status of West Nile Virus in the Region of Peel.

To report dead crows, standing water and suspected mosquito breeding sites,  
or for general information about West Nile Virus:

**Call Health Line Peel at 905-799-7700**  
**Caledon residents call toll free at 905-584-2216**

### **Surveillance Update**

#### **Peel**

In this past week, the Region of Peel has had three more batches of WNV positive mosquitoes, two of which were reported in a news release last week. All three batches of adult mosquitoes were *Culex* species and were collected from mosquito traps on August 19. The traps are located in southern Mississauga near the QEW and Dixie Road and in Brampton near Highway 407 and Hurontario Street and also at Steeles Avenue West and McLaughlin Road. There are now four reported WNV positive mosquito pool in Peel - the first was found in Malton on July 24.

In total, there have been six WNV positive crows reported in Peel. Two crows picked up in Brampton near Kennedy Road and Queen Street on August 18 and 19 have tested positive for WNV. These are the first WNV crows found in Brampton this year. There are now WNV positive birds in all three municipalities.

Peel Health will only be reporting dead crow sightings for now. The Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) will discontinue testing birds for WNV in Ontario now that there is evidence of WNV activity in all but one health unit in the province. The CCWHC may decide to resume testing later in the season.

To date, there have been no reported human cases of WNV in Peel. Overall, surveillance information indicates that at this time the risk of human WNV infection may be increasing. Peel Health reminds everyone to be diligent with personal precautions against mosquito bites.

## Ontario

There has been one new case in Ontario of WNV infection in a person. A 54 year-old Markham man, who resides near the intersection of Bayview Avenue and John Street, is currently recovering at a York Region hospital. He began showing symptoms of WNV on August 11. The first person to test positive for WNV as a result of exposure in Ontario was reported in Ottawa on August 8.

## Canada

According to statistics collected from the different provincial health ministry's Web sites, the numbers of probable and confirmed cases of WNV in humans are: Alberta (12), Saskatchewan (43), Manitoba (5), and Nova Scotia (1). The Nova Scotia case is most likely related to travel.

## United States

As of August 25, 2003, the number of human WNV cases in the USA has increased to 1,355 from 599 in last week's update, including 19 deaths to date. The virus has been found in 33 states including Alabama (14), Arkansas (3), Colorado (635), Connecticut (1), Florida (4), Georgia (3), Illinois (2), Iowa (11), Kansas (10), Kentucky (3), Louisiana (30), Maryland (1), Massachusetts (1), Minnesota (13), Mississippi (20), Missouri (2), Montana (15), Nebraska (183), New Jersey (2), New Mexico (24), New York (1), North Carolina (2), North Dakota (28), Ohio (11), Oklahoma (11), Pennsylvania (27), South Carolina (1), South Dakota (175), Tennessee (3), Texas (85), Virginia (2), Wisconsin (1) and Wyoming (31).

Hot spots for WNV in previous years such as New York and Illinois have only this week reported cases of WNV in humans. To date their numbers are low. Michigan, another previous hot spot, has yet to report a case.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2003	WEEK OF August 17 – August 23, 2003				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Dead Crow Reports	9	5	2	2	101	17	45	39
Crows Positive for WNV	3	2	0	1	6	2	1	3
Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	3	2	0	1	4	2	0	2
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Prevention and Control Measures

The third round of larvicide applications in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon was completed on August 14, 2003. The larviciding of surface water will continue on an as needed basis. The pesticide Bti will be used to larvicide surface water identified as significant breeding sites for West Nile Virus vector mosquitoes.

Further information on West Nile Virus and the WNV Prevention and Control Plan in Peel can be found through:

- Health Line Peel at 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll-free at 905-584-2216
- [www.peel-bugbite.ca](http://www.peel-bugbite.ca)
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care web site [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca)



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