

## **West Nile Virus in Peel Update July 30, 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**

There have been no new positive dead crows, positive mosquito pools or human cases of WNV reported in the Region of Peel. Current surveillance indicates that mosquito and bird activity is lower than last year at this time.

To date there has been one positive dead crow reported in Peel. Last year at this time there were nine. Currently there are no positive mosquito pools while last year there were five. As well, mosquito traps throughout Peel are collecting fewer mosquitoes compared to last year.

Overall, surveillance information indicates that at this time the risk of human WNV infection remains low in Peel although this situation could change rapidly in the next few weeks.

#### **Ontario**

A positive mosquito pool was reported in Haldimand-Norfolk on July 23. This is the first positive mosquito pool in Ontario.

As of July 29, 62 crows have tested positive for WNV in Ontario. This is more than double the number two weeks ago.

#### **Canada**

As of July 29, one person in Canada has tested positive for WNV. A blood donor in Saskatchewan has been confirmed as having the virus. The virus was found when the donated blood was tested for WNV. The person does not have any symptoms. Another person in Renfrew County (near Ottawa) has also tested positive for the virus but it is most likely that the infection occurred outside of Canada.

## United States

As of July 29, 2003, the number of human WNV cases in the USA has increased dramatically from nine last week to 42 to this week, including one death in Alabama. The virus has been found in 10 states including Alabama (6), Colorado (4), Florida (4), Iowa (1), Louisiana (10), Minnesota (1), Ohio (1), South Carolina (1), South Dakota (4) and Texas (10).

| West Nile Virus Surveillance<br>Region of Peel<br>2003 | WEEK OF July 20 – July 26, 2003 |          |         |             | YEAR TO DATE  |          |         |             |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|---------|-------------|---------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  | Peel<br>Total                   | Brampton | Caledon | Mississauga | Peel<br>Total | Brampton | Caledon | Mississauga |
| Dead Crow Reports                                      | 4                               | 2        | 2       | 0           | 78            | 10       | 37      | 31          |
| Crows Positive for WNV                                 | 0                               | 0        | 0       | 0           | 1             | 0        | 1       | 0           |
| Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV                        | 0                               | 0        | 0       | 0           | 0             | 0        | 0       | 0           |
| Confirmed Human Cases                                  | 0                               | 0        | 0       | 0           | 0             | 0        | 0       | 0           |
| Probable Human Cases                                   | 0                               | 0        | 0       | 0           | 0             | 0        | 0       | 0           |

\* Note: The standard reporting week has been changed to conform to other reporting formats. Weekly mosquito data now comprises Sunday to Saturday.

## Prevention and Control Measures

The third round of larvicide applications to roadside catch basins started on July 21 in Mississauga. Larviciding in Brampton will start once the applications in Mississauga are completed.

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 Ontario and Long-Term Care Web Site [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca)



Dr. David McKeown,  
Medical Officer of Health  
Region of Peel