

West Nile Virus in Peel Update June 25, 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

As of June 23, 2003, Health Canada reported 18 positive crows across Canada, 14 of which were located in Ontario. The Region of York recently received confirmation of WNV in a mosquito pool collected on June 18, 2003. There are no confirmed human cases of WNV infection in North America for 2003.

As of June 18, 2003, 23 states in the United States have reported WNV activity in birds, horses, or mosquitoes.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2003	WEEK OF June 16 – June 22, 2003				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Dead Crow Reports	11	3	4	4	46	6	14	26
Crows Positive for WNV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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

Prevention and Control Measures

The second application of the larvicide methoprene began June 23, 2003. This week the pesticide applicator, Pestalto, will treat roadside catch basins located on municipal roads east of Hurontario Street and south of Burnhamthorpe Road. Some catch basins west of Erin Mills Parkway and west of Southdown Road will also be treated with larvicide. After the pesticide applicators inspect and/or treat the catch basin, they paint

the catch basin with either a green or red blotch. As this is the second round of larvicide application, two green blotches on a catch basin indicate that the second application of larvicide has been applied.

A total of 15 surface water sites (woodland pools and ditches) in Mississauga have been referred to Pestalto for treatment with the larvicide Bti. One surface water site has been referred for treatment with Bti in Brampton.

Non-chemical alternatives to larviciding are being explored in the Region of Peel. The pesticide applicator, Pestalto, is studying the efficacy of larvasonic equipment in catch basins in Peel. Larvasonic equipment uses sound waves to kill mosquito larvae. Also, the Region of Peel is reviewing the suitability of stocking storm water management ponds with fathead minnows. Fathead minnows eat large numbers of mosquito larvae (100 - 160 larvae per fish per day); however, it is unknown how effective the fish are in reducing mosquito breeding.

On June 19, 2003, a Physicians Educational Event was sponsored by Peel Health to provide local physicians with detailed information about WNV and its clinical profile in humans. The event was well attended and appreciated by participants.

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
- Ministry of Ontario and Long Term Care Web Site www.health.gov.on.ca

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. McKeown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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