

West Nile Virus in Peel Update November 2004

2004 Summary on the status of West Nile Virus in the Region of Peel

This is a summary of WNV activity in the Region of Peel for 2004. Peel Health expresses its thanks to all of the individuals and organizations who assisted Peel Health in carrying out activities identified in the 2004 West Nile Virus Prevention Plan.

A final detailed summary of West Nile Virus in Peel in 2004 will be presented to Regional Council at a later date and will be available to the public.

Surveillance Summary

WNV in Peel

Surveillance in 2004 showed that the level of WNV activity was much lower than in previous years. One difference was the number of positive birds. There were 17 WNV positive birds in 2004 compared to 12 in 2003, but this can largely be attributed to the fact that this year the Region of Peel paid a fee to submit additional birds above the quota established by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre.

The Region of Peel implemented a larviciding program in 2003 and continued it in 2004. Pestalto, the licensed pesticide applicator hired by Peel Health, applied the larvicide methoprene to catch basins throughout Peel. Known surface water breeding sites were also larvicided throughout the summer on an as needed basis. The pesticide Bti was used to larvicide surface water identified as containing West Nile Virus vector mosquito larvae.

Since the implementation of the larviciding program there has been a dramatic decrease in the numbers of WNV positive mosquitoes and human cases. This year there were only four positive mosquito batches compared to 24 in 2003 and 128 in 2002. In 2002, there were 112 humans infected with WNV, 10 in 2003 and none in 2004. The weather has also been a factor. 2004 was a cool summer which may have slowed mosquito breeding.

West Nile Virus Surveillance In Peel 2004				
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Dead Crow Reports	77	21	42	14
Crows Positive for WNV	13	4	5	4
Other Birds Positive for WNV	4	0	1 (blue jay)	2 (blue jay) 1 (hawk)
Mosquito Batches Positive for WNV	4	2	0	2
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0

WNV in Canada

According to Health Canada, there were fewer cases of WNV infection in 2004 and no deaths. In 2003, there were a total 1,300 WNV infections and 10 deaths. In 2004, there were only 29 cases and no deaths.

Alberta	2	Quebec	1
Manitoba	3	Saskatchewan	10
Ontario	13		

No locally acquired cases were reported in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories, Yukon or British Columbia.

WNV in the United States

Cases of WNV infection dropped dramatically in the United States in 2004. In 2003, there were 9,862 cases of WNV related infection and 264 deaths reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To date in 2004, there have been 2,241 infections and 76 deaths. "Hot spot" states such as Colorado showed large drops in cases. In Colorado in 2003 there were 2,976 infections and 63 deaths compared to only 276 cases and three deaths in 2004.

Further information on West Nile Virus and the WNV Prevention 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 Health and Long-Term Care web site www.health.gov.on.ca



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