

## West Nile Virus in Peel Update May 28, 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

A dead crow found in Ottawa tested positive for the West Nile Virus. This is the second crow of the year that has tested positive in Ontario. No crows have tested positive in Peel to date this year.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2003	WEEK OF MAY 19 - MAY 25, 2003				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Dead Crow Reports	1	1	0	0	25	3	3	19
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

A new Ontario regulation has been filed requiring health units to conduct a local risk assessment to determine whether action is required to reduce the risk of West Nile Virus. The WNV Prevention and Control Plan developed for the Region of Peel is in compliance with this new legislation.

Health Canada has launched a phone line to inform people about the risk of contracting West Nile Virus at 1-800-816-7292.

The application of the larvicide, methoprene, to catch basins has continued in the southern portions of Mississauga below Highway 403. Although the Region of Peel is the first region in the province to begin larviciding in 2003, we are working in collaboration with neighbouring health units on a common approach to mosquito reduction.

Health Line Peel has handled over 1000 calls on standing water issues. Due to the high volume of calls, residents may experience some delay in follow up by the municipalities and Region on standing water complaints.

As part of environmental monitoring, the Ministry of Environment, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, and Peel Health took water samples from Sheridan Creek, Mullet Creek, Credit River, and Etobicoke Creek on May 22, 2003. The samples establish a baseline of methoprene levels in these water systems. Methoprene was not found in any of the samples.

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)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. McKeown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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