

## **West Nile Virus in Peel Update October 1, 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**

A Mississauga woman is the seventh Peel resident to experience a West Nile Virus illness during the 2003 season. The 51 year-old, from the Queensway and Mavis area, is recovering in hospital.

Last week two other Mississauga residents were reported with WNV fever. A 49 year-old woman from the Lakeshore Road and Southdown Road area reported flu-like symptoms and was tested by her family doctor. The other woman, a 25 year-old from Meadowvale, tested positive for WNV on August 29. Neither woman was hospitalized. All three recent cases were likely infected in late August or early September.

This week a crow in Caledon was reported as WNV positive. This is the second WNV positive crow in Caledon.

There were three new batches (pools) of WNV positive mosquitoes reported this week, making eighteen to date. All three batches were found in traps in Mississauga. Each trap had already been identified as having had West Nile Virus activity earlier in the season. Despite the new batches, the mosquito population is currently at its lowest since the last week of May.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2003	WEEK OF Sept. 21 – Sept. 27, 2003				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Dead Crow Reports	8	4	1	3	139	36	50	53
Crows Positive for WNV	1	0	1	0	7	2	2	3
Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV	3	0	0	3	18	5	0	13
Confirmed Human Cases	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	3
Probable Human Cases	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	4

**Note:** As of September 14, Peel Health resumed submitting a maximum of four dead crows per week to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) for WNV testing.

## Ontario

In Ontario, there are currently 68 probable and one confirmed case of WNV infection in humans. The Health Units that have reported WNV infection in humans include; Brant (2), Chatham-Kent (1), Hamilton-Wentworth (3), Kingston (1), Middlesex-London (1), Niagara (5), Ottawa (2), Peel (7), Peterborough (1), Renfrew (1), Toronto (38), Waterloo (1), Windsor-Essex (6) and York (1).

To date, in 2003 no Ontario resident has died as a direct result of West Nile Virus infection.

## Canada

According to Health Canada the numbers of probable and confirmed cases of WNV in humans this week are: Alberta (224), Saskatchewan (621), Manitoba (116), Nova Scotia (1), Quebec (14), British Columbia (15) and the Yukon (1). Both Nova Scotia and British Columbia attribute their cases to travel outside of their respective provinces.

There have been eight deaths in total in Canada: 6 in Saskatchewan and 2 in Manitoba.

## United States

As of September 30, 2003 the number of human WNV cases in the USA has increased to 5722 from 4666 in last week's update, including 110 deaths to date. The virus has been found in 42 states including Alabama (26), Arizona (1), Arkansas (11), Colorado (1991), Connecticut (6), Delaware (4), Florida (32), Georgia (13), Illinois (22), Indiana (6), Iowa (98), Kansas (40), Kentucky (6), Louisiana (67), Maryland (17), Massachusetts (6), Minnesota (67), Michigan (1), Minnesota (95), Mississippi (51), Missouri (35), Montana (207), Nebraska (968), Nevada (1), New Hampshire (1), New Jersey (17), New Mexico (172), New York (40), North Carolina (18), North Dakota (148), Ohio (46), Oklahoma (40), Pennsylvania (91), Rhode Island (3), South Carolina (1), South Dakota

(776), Tennessee (7), Texas (329), Utah (1), Vermont (1), Virginia (7), Wisconsin (10) and Wyoming (310).

To date, the WNV cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control indicate that approximately 64 per cent are milder cases of West Nile Fever, 28 per cent are reported as West Nile meningitis or encephalitis and eight per cent were clinically unspecified.

### **Prevention and Control Measures**

Hunting season is upon us and although it is late in the mosquito season, hunters should still take precautions against West Nile Virus. When hunting in areas and at times of significant mosquito activity (between dusk and dawn) hunters are reminded to wear light coloured clothing, including long sleeves, and pants with sock and boots. The use of an insect repellent containing up to 30 per cent DEET is also recommended.

Mosquito season is almost over and the risk of WNV infection is low especially now that the weather is cooler during both the evening and day. Nonetheless it is still possible to be infected. The incubation period for the virus varies from three to 15 days. Residents should be aware of the symptoms which include fever, extreme tiredness, headache, muscle aches and skin rash. Visit your doctor or local hospital for testing if you feel that you may be infected.

All larviciding in Peel, including the larviciding of surface water with the pesticide Bti was completed as of September 15.

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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