

West Nile Virus in Peel Weekly Update September 22, 2004

This is a regular update on the status of West Nile Virus in the Region of Peel.
Updates will continue until October.

To report dead crows 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 crow found in Mississauga and submitted for testing on September 20 has been confirmed as WNV-positive. This is the fifth positive crow for Mississauga and the fourteenth in Peel this season.

There have been no new positive mosquito batches this past week. To date, there have been four WNV-positive mosquito batches identified. No Peel residents have tested positive for WNV infection this year.

Canada

WNV activity has increased slightly this week rising to 22, from 20 last week. The two new cases are in Ontario bringing the Ontario total to 10. Three cases are in Toronto and one in is in York.

WNV infected birds are found in five provinces. There is a total of 392 (up from 372 last week) WNV-infected birds this week – Alberta (9), Quebec (101), Ontario (237), Manitoba (16) and Saskatchewan (29). In addition, in Alberta, positive mosquitoes and horses have been reported. Across Canada, a total of 5,982 birds have been submitted for WNV testing.

United States

The number of human cases of WNV infection in the U.S. has increased again this past week and there are cases in all but 13 states. The number of WNV-related deaths reported has risen from 35 last week to 48 this week. The deaths have been primarily in the south and south-west states with five in Arizona, 15 in California, five in Texas and three in Louisiana.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2004	September 14 – 20				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
Dead Crow Reports	4	0	0	4	72	19	41	12
Crows Positive for WNV	1	0	0	1	14	4	5**	5*
Mosquito Batches Positive for WNV	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	2
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NOTE: *Mississauga has reported one positive blue jay
 **Caledon has reported one WNV positive blue jay

Prevention and Control Measures

Pestalto, the licensed pesticide applicator hired by Peel Health, has completed the final round of larviciding in Peel. The application to treat surface water will continue until September 30.

Peel Health is no longer asking for stagnant water complaints from the public. The larviciding of known mosquito breeding sites will continue on an as needed basis. The pesticide Bti will be used to larvicide surface water identified as containing West Nile Virus vector mosquito larvae.

Craneflies

Peel Health has received several calls from residents reporting large mosquitoes. These are actually Craneflies. They look similar to mosquitoes but are approximately four times the size of the average mosquito; the body is about one inch in length. The life span of an adult Cranefly is four to seven days. The Cranefly larvae, also known as leatherjackets, damage lawns when they move from the soil to the surface. The adult Craneflies are harmless to humans.

Further information on West Nile Virus and Peel's 2004 WNV Prevention Plan 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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 Region of Peel