

## **West Nile Virus in Peel Update September 17, 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**

On September 13, Peel Health reported a third case of West Nile Virus infection. A Mississauga teenager living near Britannia Road and Ninth Line was tested at Credit Valley Hospital on September 5. He was not hospitalized and is recovering at home.

In addition to the human case, there have been three new batches (pools) of WNV positive mosquitoes reported this week, making fourteen to date. All three batches were identified in locations that have already demonstrated West Nile Virus activity either in positive mosquitoes or dead crows. There is evidence that mosquito activity is declining. In the last week of August, mosquito traps had an average of 200 mosquitoes (all types) and in the first week of September the number has dropped to 20.

As of this week, translations of a general West Nile Virus overview fact sheet have been posted on the WNV Web site [www.peel-bugbite.ca](http://www.peel-bugbite.ca). Translations are available in Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and Chinese (Vietnamese will be available soon). Copies may be printed from the web site for distribution or contact Health Line Peel to order copies.

#### **Ontario**

In Ontario, there are currently 36 probable and one confirmed case of WNV infection in humans. The Health Units that have reported WNV infection in humans include; Brant (1), Hamilton-Wentworth (3), Kingston (1), Middlesex-London (1), Niagara (2), Ottawa (2), Peel (3), Peterborough (1), Renfrew (1 - confirmed), Toronto (17), Windsor-Essex (3) and York (1). The Renfrew and Middlesex-London cases are most likely related to travel in the United States.

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

## Canada

According to statistics collected from each provincial health ministry web site, the numbers of probable and confirmed cases of WNV in humans this week are: Alberta (159), Saskatchewan (219), Manitoba (45), Nova Scotia (1), Quebec (8) and British Columbia (6). Both Nova Scotia and British Columbia attribute their cases to travel outside of their respective provinces.

On September 11, Manitoba reported the first human death attributed to West Nile Virus infection. The individual, a man in his sixties, died from West Nile Virus neurological syndrome. He also had an underlying chronic medical condition.

## United States

As of September 16, 2003 the number of human WNV cases in the USA has increased to 3659 from 2874 in last week's update, including 67 deaths to date. The virus has been found in 37 states including Alabama (21), Arizona (1), Arkansas (5), Colorado (1214), Connecticut (1), Florida (22), Georgia (8), Illinois (8), Indiana (6), Iowa (38), Kansas (23), Kentucky (6), Louisiana (52), Maryland (17), Massachusetts (1), Minnesota (31), Mississippi (48), Missouri (10), Montana (154), Nebraska (532), New Hampshire (1), New Jersey (4), New Mexico (116), New York (22), North Carolina (14), North Dakota (126), Ohio (22), Oklahoma (26), Pennsylvania (62), Rhode Island (1), South Carolina (1), South Dakota (580), Tennessee (7), Texas (190), Virginia (4), Wisconsin (6) and Wyoming (279).

These numbers reflect both mild and severe cases that have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control. To date, approximately 60 per cent are milder cases of West Nile Fever, 29 per cent are reported as West Nile meningitis or encephalitis and 11 per cent were clinically unspecified.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2003	WEEK OF Sept. 7 – Sept. 13, 2003				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
<b>Dead Crow Reports</b>	7	5	1	1	124	30	47	47
<b>Crows Positive for WNV</b>	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	3
<b>Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV</b>	3	2	0	1	14	5	0	9
<b>Confirmed Human Cases</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Probable Human Cases</b>	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	3

**Note:** Peel Health will only be reporting dead crow sightings until further notice as the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) has discontinued testing birds for WNV in Ontario now that there is evidence of WNV activity in almost all parts of the province.

## Prevention and Control Measures

All larviciding in Peel, including the larviciding of surface water with the pesticide Bti was completed as of September 15. Paid notices were inserted in the Mississauga News, the Brampton Guardian and the Caledon Enterprise, alerting residents to the continuing risk of WNV in Peel.

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)

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

Dr. David McKeown  
Medical Officer of Health  
Region of Peel