

## **West Nile Virus in Peel Update September 24, 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 18, Peel Health reported a fourth case of West Nile Virus infection. The 71 year-old male, who lives near Dundas Street and Bloor Street in Mississauga was released from hospital early this week. A 64 year-old man hospitalized with WNV in early September has also returned home. The other two people were not hospitalized.

There was one new batch (pool) of WNV positive mosquitoes reported this week, making fifteen to date. The batch was found in Mississauga in an area already identified as having West Nile Virus activity either in positive mosquitoes or dead crows. Overall, mosquito activity is steadily declining with the cooler weather.

#### **Ontario**

In Ontario, there are currently 54 probable and one confirmed case of WNV infection in humans. The Health Units that have reported WNV infection in humans include; Brant (1), Chatham-Kent (1), Hamilton-Wentworth (3), Kingston (1), Middlesex-London (1), Niagara (4), Ottawa (2), Peel (4), Peterborough (1), Renfrew (1 - confirmed), Toronto (30), Windsor-Essex (5) 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 (183), Saskatchewan (509), Manitoba (71), Nova Scotia (1), Quebec (11), British Columbia (13) and the Yukon (1). Both Nova Scotia and British Columbia attribute their cases to travel outside of their respective provinces.

This week Saskatchewan reported that there have been six human deaths attributed to West Nile Virus infection to date. There have been seven deaths in total in Canada.

## United States

As of September 23, 2003 the number of human WNV cases in the USA has increased to 4666 from 3659 in last week's update, including 88 deaths to date. The virus has been found in 38 states including Alabama (25), Arizona (1), Arkansas (5), Colorado (1542), Connecticut (6), Florida (32), Georgia (12), Illinois (19), Indiana (6), Iowa (59), Kansas (29), Kentucky (6), Louisiana (52), Maryland (17), Massachusetts (1), Minnesota (67), Mississippi (48), Missouri (20), Montana (159), Nebraska (718), New Hampshire (1), New Jersey (10), New Mexico (145), New York (37), North Carolina (15), North Dakota (148), Ohio (39), Oklahoma (37), Pennsylvania (72), Rhode Island (1), South Carolina (1), South Dakota (699), Tennessee (7), Texas (311), Utah (1), Virginia (6), Wisconsin (10) and Wyoming (302).

To date the WNV cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control indicate that approximately 62 per cent are milder cases of West Nile Fever, 29 per cent are reported as West Nile meningitis or encephalitis and 9 per cent were clinically unspecified.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2003	WEEK OF Sept. 14 – Sept. 20, 2003				YEAR TO DATE			
	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Peel Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
<b>Dead Crow Reports</b>	9	2	3	4	133	32	49	50
<b>Crows Positive for WNV</b>	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	3
<b>Mosquito Pools Positive for WNV</b>	1	0	0	1	15	5	0	10
<b>Confirmed Human Cases</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Probable Human Cases</b>	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	4

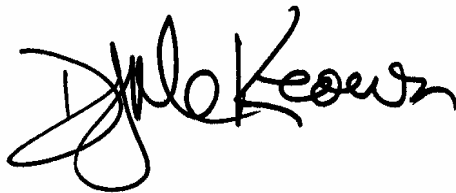
**Note:** As of this week, Peel Health will resume submitting a maximum of four dead crows per week to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) for WNV testing.

## Prevention and Control Measures

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)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. McKeown". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. David McKeown  
Medical Officer of Health  
Region of Peel