

West Nile Virus in Peel July 23 - 29, 2006

The following is detailed information about WNV activity within Peel.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2006	Week of July 23 – 29				Year to Date			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
WNV-Positive Crows and Blue Jays	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Surveillance

This week has seen a significant increase in WNV activity throughout Ontario, including Peel's first confirmed positive batch of mosquitoes in southwest Mississauga in the QEW and Clarkson Road area. Hamilton has now reported its first positive mosquito batch, while Windsor, Oxford and Porcupine had previously reported positive mosquitoes. Manitoba has seen a dramatic increase in positive mosquito batches in the last week with an additional 24 positive batches, bringing their total to 28.

Sixty-seven WNV-positive birds have been reported in Ontario with 12 new birds confirmed in the last week. Two of Peel's bordering neighbours, have confirmed WNV-positive birds; Halton has confirmed its first WNV-positive bird, while Simcoe-Muskoka has now recorded four.

Peel has no confirmed human WNV cases. There are no human cases in Ontario or Canada.

Public Education

With the first positive mosquito batch in the QEW and Clarkson Road area, Peel Health staff are checking the immediate area for breeding sites, referring the sites to Peel's applicator for treatment if necessary and ensuring that catch basins have been larvicided.

Staff are also going door to door in the area to inform residents about the finding. They are offering to inspect residents' property for breeding sites and leaving a flyer that reminds residents what they can do to reduce mosquito breeding and personally protect themselves against WNV.

Regular updates are available at www.peel-bugbite.ca.

Mosquito Reduction

The third round of larviciding is currently underway. Our licensed pesticide applicator will begin larviciding roadside catch basins in Brampton beginning the first week of August after completing larviciding in Mississauga. Larviciding in Caledon is scheduled to begin in the second week of August. An orange dot will indicate treated catch basins in round three. Catch basin larviciding updates are posted regularly on www.peel-bugbite.ca.

Peel's treatment of surface water such as ditches, culverts and woodlot pools will continue until the end of September.

Trends from past years have shown that the risk for human WNV infection increases at this time. From **late July to throughout September** residents are reminded to take the following precautions against bites:

- Avoid areas with high mosquito populations and take extra precautions at dusk and dawn when mosquito activity is higher
- Wear light-coloured clothing and cover exposed skin by wearing long sleeves, pants and a hat
- Use a mosquito repellent and follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Drain areas of standing or stagnant water on your property. Remove old tires, turn over pails, toys and wheelbarrows, and frequently change water in birdbaths. Also, keep your eavestroughs clear to avoid trapped water

To report stagnant water, residents can fill in and submit a Suspected Mosquito Breeding Site Report form available on www.peel-bugbite.ca.

Find more information about WNV, protection measures and the Region of Peel's Prevention Plan through:

- Peel Health 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 at www.health.gov.on.ca

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Region of Peel