

West Nile Virus in Peel Sept. 10 - 16, 2006

The following is detailed information about WNV activity within Peel.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2006	Week of Sept. 10 - 16				Year to Date			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
WNV-Positive Crows and Blue Jays	0	0	0	0	11	4	3	4
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	4	2	0	2	14	5	0	9
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Probable Human Cases	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

Surveillance

There were five new WNV-positive birds found in Ontario this past week; Ontario's total number of WNV-positive birds has risen to 256 and will remain there for the 2006 season. All 36 health units have now been directed to stop testing birds by the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care as they have each found four WNV-positive birds within their region.

Four new WNV-positive mosquito batches were reported in Peel this past week – two each in both Brampton and Mississauga. *Ontario has a total of 165 positive mosquito batches with 15 new batches found across the province. Canada has a total of 496 confirmed WNV-positive mosquito batches.*

Peel has another probable human WNV case in Brampton; Peel Public Health is waiting for blood work results to confirm the case. Human cases are on the rise both in the province and in Canada with a total of 23 and 78 confirmed cases respectively.

Mosquito Reduction

Canadian Centre for Mosquito Management will continue larviciding stagnant water sites until the end of September.

While the risk of human WNV infection is beginning to decrease since the temperature is getting cooler and the daylight hours are diminishing, there is still a risk to contract the WNV. Residents are encouraged to keep practising the following personal protection measures:

- 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

Often people exhibiting WNV symptoms will not consult a family physician immediately as the symptoms are similar to those when someone is feeling under the weather. However, residents are reminded to keep WNV symptoms in mind if they are not feeling well. The most common symptoms reported from those who contract the virus include extreme tiredness, muscle aches, a fever, frontal headache and a skin rash. More serious symptoms can include neck stiffness, muscle weakness and confusion.

Extreme swelling or infection at the site of a mosquito bite does not mean a person is infected with WNV, but may still require medical attention. Anyone with concerns about a bite or anyone feeling sick should seek medical attention.

Crane Flies

Peel Public Health has received a number of calls from residents reporting large mosquitoes. These insects are not mosquitoes; they are Crane flies. The Crane fly is harmless to humans. They look similar to mosquitoes but are approximately four times the size of an average mosquito; the body is about one inch in length. The life span of an adult Crane fly is four to seven days. The Crane fly larvae, also known as leatherjackets, damage lawns when they move from the soil to the surface.

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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