

West Nile Virus in Peel Sept. 17 – 23, 2006

The following is detailed information about WNV activity within Peel.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Region of Peel 2006	Week of Sept. 17 – 23				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	0	0	0	0	14	4	0	10
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Surveillance

Laboratory tests carried out on last week's "probable" human case now identify a Brampton resident as Peel's second "confirmed" human case. This brings the total number of human cases in Peel to two, both of them in Brampton residents. There have been six new human cases of WNV in Ontario this past week. Toronto has a total of five cases; both Hamilton and London have a total of three cases. To date, a total of 29 human cases of WNV have been confirmed in Ontario. In Canada, 94 human cases have been confirmed so far this season.

There were no WNV-positive mosquito pools found in Peel this week. This week is the last week of mosquito surveillance in Peel. Overall, mosquito breeding activity is declining. The breeding of mosquito species known to carry WNV is also on the decline due to cooler weather conditions and a reduction in day-light hours. After a couple of hard frosts, mosquito breeding activity will cease.

The Region of Peel's contract with GDG - mosquito testing lab – will end this week. In addition, the contract with Reliable Exterminators, a company responsible for dead bird pick-up, will also come to an end this week.

Mosquito Reduction

Last week, two water surface sites have been treated. Peel's contract with the Canadian Centre for Mosquito Management, a company that conducts larviciding in Peel, will end on Sept. 30.

While the risk of human WNV infection is beginning to decrease as the temperature becomes cooler and daylight hours diminish, mosquitoes are still active during the day when the temperatures are higher.

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.

Next week's update will be the last update for this year's WNV season.

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

Megan Ward, MD MHSc CCFP FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health
Region of Peel