

West Nile Virus in Peel July 29 – August 4, 2007

West Nile Virus Surveillance 2007	Week of July 29 – August 4, 2007				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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Confirmed Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probable Human Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Surveillance

To date, 433 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV and all were negative for the virus. A total of 37 dead crows and blue jays have been reported. Those specimens suitable for testing were sent to the laboratory. All tested were negative for WNV.

To report dead crows and blue jays, residents are asked to call **from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and statutory holidays.**

Peel Public Health has received 239 stagnant water reports from Peel residents to date.

There have been no human cases of WNV reported in Peel.

Mosquito Reduction

The third round of roadside catch basin larviciding commenced in southern Mississauga on July 23, 2007. After completing Mississauga, larviciding crews began in Brampton on August 3, and expect to complete both Brampton and Caledon by the end of this week. The third round is indicated by a pink dot on the catch basin grate.

The fourth and final round of larviciding will begin in Mississauga on August 13. It will take three weeks to apply larvicides to all roadside catch basins in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. The fourth round will be indicated by a green dot on the catch basin grate.

Larviciding of catch basins in the green spaces of parks in Peel has been completed. The treatment of surface water sites on public lands has been ongoing since early May 2007.

Public Education

Throughout August and September, the risk of WNV infection is at its highest. The best way to avoid infection is to protect yourself against mosquitoes by:

- Avoiding areas with large numbers of mosquitoes
- Wearing light-coloured clothing, including long sleeves, long pants, socks and a hat whenever you are outdoors (even when you are in your backyard), especially at dusk and at dawn
- Using only those personal insect repellents that are registered for use in Canada and applying the repellent according to the manufacturer's directions

For more tips on protecting yourself and your family, please visit www.peel-bugbite.ca.

WNV in Ontario

To date, there have been 30 WNV-positive birds reported in Ontario – 11 in Thunder Bay District Health Unit, 11 in North Western Health Unit, two in Simcoe-Muskoka, two in Sudbury District Health Unit, one in York Region, one in Kingston Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, one in Chatham – Kent, and most recently, one in Lambton County. There have been no human cases of WNV illness reported in Ontario.

The first WNV positive batch of mosquitoes in Ontario was reported in Windsor-Essex.

WNV in Canada

WNV activity in Canada remains in the western provinces. Manitoba has reported 322 positive batches of mosquitoes, 42 human cases and one positive case in a horse. The first death associated with WNV in Canada was reported this week, also in Manitoba. Saskatchewan has 101 positive mosquito batches, 14 human cases, 50 positive birds and 4 positive cases in horses. Alberta has reported 34 positive mosquito batches and one human case. British Columbia has reported one positive human case; however, this person acquired the virus while travelling in Saskatchewan.

WNV in United States

There were 63 new WNV positive human cases reported this week in the USA. In total there have been 185 human cases of WNV reported in the USA – including 38 in South Dakota, 42 in California, 14 in North Dakota, and 13 in Mississippi. Three Great Lake states are reporting WNV activity in humans. Minnesota has reported four human cases, Illinois has reported three and Ohio has reported one.

For more information about WNV and the Region of Peel's WNV Prevention Plan, call 905-799-7700, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Caledon residents call toll-free at 905-584-2216.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Mowat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David L. Mowat, MBChB, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Region of Peel