

West Nile Virus in Peel August 3 – 9, 2008

West Nile Virus Surveillance 2008	Week of August 3 – 9, 2008				Year to Date			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
WNV-Positive Crows and Blue Jays	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	1	0	0	1	2	1	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

The Region of Peel has been actively monitoring for the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Peel since May 12, 2008. To date, 584 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV and two have tested positive. Mosquitoes collected in Mississauga on August 7 in the area of Goreway Road and Derry Road East have tested positive for WNV.

A total of 42 dead crows and blue jays have been reported. Those specimens suitable for testing were sent to the laboratory. A crow found in Brampton on August 4 in the area of Wanless Drive and McLaughlin Road has tested positive for WNV.

To report dead crows and blue jays, residents are asked to call 905-799-7700 **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.**

Region of Peel – Public Health received 262 stagnant water reports from Peel residents.

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

Mosquito Reduction

The larviciding program started on May 5, 2008 and will continue until September 30, 2008. Larviciding involves applying environmentally friendly products to reduce mosquito larvae (immature mosquitoes) living in stagnant water. The products are applied to municipal catch basins and selected sites on public property.

The fourth round of larviciding began on August 11 and is indicated by a green dot on the catch basin grate. It takes three weeks to apply larvicides to all roadside catch basins in

Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. There will be four rounds of roadside catch basin larviciding this season.

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 2008.

Public Education

The risk of WNV infection is at its highest in August and September. 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

This week, 10 birds tested positive for WNV; two each in Eastern Ontario and Ottawa, and one each in the following health units: Durham Region, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District, the Region of Peel, Simcoe Muskoka, and Windsor-Essex. The Region of Peel reported the only positive mosquito batch this week.

To date, there have been 30 WNV-positive birds identified; seven in North Bay Parry Sound, four in Eastern Ontario, two each in Durham Region, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District, Ottawa, Renfrew County, and Sudbury, and one each in Lambton County, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District, Niagara Region, Peterborough County, the Region of Peel, Simcoe Muskoka, Thunder Bay, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, and Windsor-Essex.

As well, there have been nine WNV-positive mosquito batches; three in Windsor-Essex County, two each in the Region of Peel and Toronto, and one each in Brant County and York Region. There have been no human cases of WNV illness reported in Ontario.

WNV in Canada

Along with the WNV activity in Ontario, Manitoba has reported 21 WNV-positive mosquito batches and Saskatchewan has reported five positive mosquito batches. There have been no human cases of WNV illness reported in Canada.

WNV in United States

There have been 114 human cases reported in the USA; including 29 in California, 17 in Mississippi and 14 in Colorado. In the Great Lake states, there are five human cases; three in Minnesota and one each in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

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