

West Nile Virus in Peel August 10 – 16, 2008

West Nile Virus Surveillance 2008	Week of August 10 – 16, 2008				Year to Date			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
WNV-Positive Crows and Blue Jays	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	6	4	0	2	8	5	0	3
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, 732 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV and eight batches have tested positive. This week four batches in Brampton and two batches in Mississauga tested positive. The four in Brampton were collected on August 12. Two batches were found in the vicinity of Dixie Road and Clark Boulevard, and the others were found in the areas of Chinguacousy Road and Queen Street West, and Kennedy Road North and Queen Street East. The two batches in Mississauga were both collected on August 13 in the area of Derry Road East and Goreway Drive.

A total of 47 dead crows and blue jays have been reported and those specimens suitable for testing were sent to the laboratory. To date, two birds have tested positive for WNV. This week a bird found on August 11 in the area of Williams Parkway Drive and Torbram Road tested positive.

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 279 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 in south Mississauga and is currently progressing north of Burnhamthorpe Road. The fourth round 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

A press release was issued on Friday, August 8, informing the public that the first positive bird and mosquito batch were found in Peel. The local papers in all three municipalities ran the article.

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, 17 birds tested positive for WNV, for a total of 47 positive birds to date; including eight in North Bay Parry Sound, six in Ottawa and five in the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. In the Regions neighbouring Peel, there are two positive birds in Halton Region, and one each in Simcoe Muskoka and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.

According to the most recent posting on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website, six mosquito batches tested positive for WNV, for a total of 15 positive mosquito batches to date; including eight in the Region of Peel, three in Windsor-Essex County, two in Toronto, and one each in Brant County and York Region.

There has been one human case of WNV illness reported in York Region.

WNV in Canada

Along with the WNV activity in Ontario, Manitoba has reported 27 WNV-positive mosquito batches and Saskatchewan has reported nine positive mosquito batches and one human WNV illness.

WNV in United States

There have been 168 human cases reported in the USA; including 55 in California, 17 in Mississippi, 14 in Colorado, 11 in South Dakota and 10 in Texas. In the Great Lake states, Minnesota has nine human cases, and Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin each have 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