

West Nile Virus in Peel August 24 – 30, 2008

West Nile Virus Surveillance 2008	Week of August 24 – 30, 2008				Year to Date			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
WNV-Positive Crows and Blue Jays	1	0	0	1	5	2	0	3
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	3	2	0	1	18	9	0	9
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, 1,007 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV and 18 batches have tested positive. Two batches in Brampton and one batch in Mississauga tested positive this week. The two positive batches in Brampton were collected in the areas of Sandalwood Parkway East and Heart Lake Road, and Clark Boulevard and Dixie Road. The positive batch in Mississauga was collected in the area of Clarkson Road North and Truscott Drive.

A total of 64 dead crows and blue jays have been reported and those specimens suitable for testing were sent to the laboratory. To date, five birds have tested positive for WNV. This week, one bird in Mississauga tested positive. It was found in the area of Cawthra Road and Bloor Street.

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 309 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 and final round of roadside catch basin larviciding has been completed. The fourth round was indicated by a green dot on the catch basin grate. Larviciding of catch basins in the green spaces of parks in Peel has also been completed.

The treatment of surface water sites on public lands will continue until the end of September.

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, 17 birds tested positive for WNV, for a total of 84 positive birds to date. This includes 12 birds in the Ottawa area, 10 in Halton and eight in North Bay Parry Sound. In the Regions neighbouring Peel, there have been 10 positive birds in Halton, two each in Simcoe Muskoka and Toronto, and one in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.

To date, 38 mosquito batches have tested positive, including: 18 in the Region of Peel, seven in Windsor-Essex County, six in Toronto, three Hamilton, two in Halton, 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 36 WNV-positive mosquito batches and three human cases. Saskatchewan has reported 19 positive mosquito batches and four human WNV illnesses.

WNV in United States

There have been 342 human cases reported in the USA, including: 97 in California, 53 in Mississippi and 33 in Colorado. In the Great Lake states, Minnesota has 13 human cases, Illinois has four, New York has two, and Michigan, 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