

West Nile Virus in Peel August 31 – September 6, 2008

West Nile Virus Surveillance 2008	Week of August 31 – September 6, 2008				Year to Date			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
WNV-Positive Crows and Blue Jays	2	1	1	0	7	3	1	3
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	1	1	0	0	19	10	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, 1,140 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV and 19 batches have tested positive. One batch collected in the area of North Park Drive and Bramalea Road in Brampton tested positive this week.

A total of 71 dead crows and blue jays have been reported and those specimens suitable for testing were sent to the laboratory. To date, seven birds have tested positive. This week, two birds tested positive. One bird was found in the area of Kennedy Road South and Steeles Avenue East in Brampton, and the other bird was found in the area of Creditview Road and King Street West in Caledon. This is the first WNV activity present in Caledon this season.

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 316 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, 15 birds tested positive for WNV, for a total of 99 positive birds to date. This includes 12 birds in the Ottawa area, 11 in Halton and eight in North Bay Parry Sound. In the Regions neighbouring Peel, there have been 11 positive birds in Halton, four in Simcoe Muskoka, two in Toronto, and one in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.

To date, 53 mosquito batches have tested positive, including: 19 in the Region of Peel, 17 in Toronto, eight in Windsor-Essex County, four in Halton, three in Hamilton 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 40 WNV-positive mosquito batches and four human cases. Saskatchewan has reported 19 positive mosquito batches and five human WNV illnesses. Alberta is reporting one travel-related WNV human illness.

WNV in United States

There have been 413 human cases reported in the USA, including: 127 in California, 53 in Mississippi and 37 in Colorado. In the Great Lake states, Minnesota has 15 human cases, New York has six, Illinois has four, Michigan and Ohio each have two, and Pennsylvania, Indiana 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