

West Nile Virus in Peel July 27 – August 2, 2008

West Nile Virus Surveillance 2008	Week of July 27 – August 2, 2008				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	1	1	0	0	1	1	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

The Region of Peel has been actively monitoring for the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Peel since May 12, 2008. To date, 416 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV. Mosquitoes collected in Brampton on July 29 in the area of Hwy. 407 and Hurontario Street have tested positive for WNV. A total of 41 dead crows and blue jays have been reported. Those specimens suitable for testing were sent to the laboratory and all tested negative.

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 253 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 third round of larviciding began on July 21 and is indicated by a pink dot on the catch basin grate. Larviciding crews have finished in Mississauga and expect to complete Brampton and Caledon this week. The fourth round of larviciding will begin in Mississauga on August 11 and will be marked by a green dot. 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

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

This week five birds tested positive for WNV; one each in the following health units Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, Durham Region, Eastern Ontario, North Bay Parry Sound, and Peterborough County. Also, two mosquito batches tested positive; one in Toronto and the other in the Region of Peel.

To date, there have been 20 WNV-positive birds; seven in North Bay Parry Sound, two each in Renfrew County, Sudbury and Eastern Ontario, and one each in Niagara Region, Lambton County, Thunder Bay, Durham Region, Peterborough County, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District, and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph. As well, there have been four WNV-positive mosquito batches; two in Toronto and one each in Windsor-Essex County and the Region of Peel. 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 seven WNV-positive mosquito batches and Saskatchewan has reported one positive mosquito batch.

WNV in United States

There have been 62 human cases reported in the USA; including 12 in California, nine in Mississippi and six in Texas. In the Great Lake states, Minnesota has reported three human cases and Pennsylvania has reported one human case.

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