

West Nile Virus in Peel September 14 – 20, 2008

West Nile Virus Surveillance 2008	Week of September 14 – 20, 2008				Year to Date			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
WNV-Positive Crows and Blue Jays	0	0	0	0	10	3	1	6
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	2	0	0	2	21	10	0	11
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, 1,334 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV and 21 batches have tested positive. Two batches of mosquitoes tested positive this week. Both batches were found in a trap in the area of Bristol Road and McLaughlin Road in Mississauga.

A total of 79 dead crows and blue jays have been reported and those specimens suitable for testing were sent to the laboratory. To date, 10 birds have 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 has received 322 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, 8 birds tested positive for WNV, for a total of 131 positive birds to date. This includes 16 birds in Halton, 13 in the Ottawa area, 11 in Hamilton and 10 each in Peel and Niagara. In the regions neighbouring Peel, there have been 16 positive birds in Halton, four in Simcoe Muskoka, three in Toronto, and one each in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and York Region.

To date, 60 mosquito batches have tested positive, including: 21 in Peel, 17 in Toronto, nine in Windsor-Essex County, five in Halton, four in Hamilton, two in York Region, and one each in Brant County and Haldimand-Norfolk.

There has been one human case of WNV illness reported in York Region. This week, the second WNV-positive horse was reported in the Leeds and Grenville District. The first positive horse was reported in Nipissing last week.

WNV in Canada

Along with the WNV activity in Ontario, Manitoba has reported 41 WNV-positive mosquito batches and 13 human cases. Saskatchewan has reported 19 positive mosquito batches and six human WNV illnesses. Both British Columbia and Alberta are reporting one travel-related WNV human illness.

WNV in United States

There have been 712 human cases reported in the USA, including: 198 in California, 76 in Mississippi and 62 in Colorado. In the Great Lake states, New York has 18 human cases, Minnesota has 16, Pennsylvania and Ohio each have five, Wisconsin and Illinois each have four, Michigan has two, and Indiana has 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