

West Nile Virus in Peel September 28 – October 4, 2008

This is the final in a series of weekly updates from the Region of Peel.

West Nile Virus Surveillance 2008	Week of September 28 – October 4, 2008				Year to Date			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
WNV-Positive Crows and Blue Jays	1	0	0	1	15	3	1	11
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	0	0	0	0	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's 2008 mosquito and dead bird surveillance concluded on September 30, 2008. Since May 12, 2008, a total of 1,483 mosquito batches were tested for West Nile Virus (WNV) and 21 batches tested positive.

One bird collected in Mississauga tested positive for WNV this week. The bird was collected in the vicinity of Dundas Street West and Erindale Station Road. In total, 84 dead crows and blue jays were reported and those specimens suitable for testing were sent to the laboratory. Fifteen birds tested positive this season.

Region of Peel – Public Health has received 326 stagnant water reports from Peel residents.

There have been no human cases of WNV reported in Peel.

Mosquito Reduction

The 2008 larviciding program started on May 5 and concluded on September 30. Larviciding involves applying environmentally friendly products to reduce mosquito larvae (immature mosquitoes) living in stagnant water. The products were applied to municipal catch basins and selected sites on public property.

Public Education

Although the weather is cooling down, mosquitoes remain active until the first frost. 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, 6 birds tested positive for WNV, for a total of 146 positive birds to date. This includes 17 birds in Halton, 15 in Peel, 14 in Hamilton and 13 each in the Ottawa area and Niagara. In the regions neighbouring Peel, there have been 17 positive birds in Halton, four in Simcoe Muskoka, three in Toronto, and one each in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and York Region.

To date, 62 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, Haldimand-Norfolk, the Chippewas of Sarnia First Nation community, and Oneida First Nation community, which is located near London.

A total of two human cases have been reported this season; one in Chatham-Kent and one in York Region. To date, two horses have tested positive for WNV; one in the Leeds and Grenville District and the other in Nipissing.

WNV in Canada

Manitoba has reported 41 WNV-positive mosquito batches and 13 human cases. Saskatchewan has reported 19 positive mosquito batches and 17 human WNV illnesses. Both British Columbia and Alberta are reporting one travel-related WNV human illness. A Quebec resident was identified WNV-positive through blood donation screening.

WNV in United States

There have been 918 human cases reported in the USA, including: 272 in California, 84 in Mississippi and 77 in Colorado. In the Great Lake states, New York has 27 human cases, Minnesota has 20, Ohio has 12, Illinois has 10, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin each have five, and Indiana has two.

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