

## West Nile Virus in Peel September 7 – 13, 2008

West Nile Virus Surveillance 2008	Week of September 7 – 13, 2008				Year to Date			
	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga	Total	Brampton	Caledon	Mississauga
WNV-Positive Crows and Blue Jays	3	0	0	3	10	3	1	6
WNV-Positive Mosquito Pools	0	0	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, 1,252 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV and 19 batches have tested positive.

A total of 75 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. This week, three birds found in Mississauga tested positive. These birds were found in the areas of Dundas Street West and Winston Churchill Boulevard, Dundas Street West and Confederation Parkway, and 2nd Line West and Hwy. 401.

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 321 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](http://www.peel-bugbite.ca).

## **WNV in Ontario**

This week, 24 birds tested positive for WNV, for a total of 123 positive birds to date. This includes 14 birds in Halton, 12 in the Ottawa area, and 10 in Peel region. In the regions neighbouring Peel, there have been 14 positive birds in Halton, four in Simcoe Muskoka, three 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. This week, the first WNV-positive horse was reported in Nipissing.

## **WNV in Canada**

Along with the WNV activity in Ontario, Manitoba has reported 41 WNV-positive mosquito batches and 10 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 510 human cases reported in the USA, including: 155 in California, 71 in Mississippi and 37 in Colorado. In the Great Lake states, Minnesota has 16 human cases, New York has six, Ohio has five, Illinois has four, Wisconsin has three, Michigan and Pennsylvania each have 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