

Another WNV-positive pool found

This is shaping up to be a rather quiet year on the West Nile Virus (WNV) front.

Peel Public Health reports the last week in July saw another WNV-positive mosquito pool in the region. This was the second of the year and it was found in Brampton. The first one was found earlier in the month in Mississauga.

There have been a total of four positive pools in Ontario so far this year; the two in Peel, another in Halton Region and the fourth in Perth district. Those are the only ones that have been reported in Canada.

There have been no human cases of WNV illness reported.

To date, there have been 51 human cases of WNV in the United States, including 18 in Arizona and 7 in Texas.

Peel Public Health is continuing with its surveillance program. It began June 19. Adult mosquitoes are collected weekly from mosquito traps at 31 fixed locations throughout the region until late September.

To date, 170 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV.

The mosquito reduction includes larviciding, which involves applying environmentally-friendly products to reduce mosquito larvae in stagnant water.

Peel's larviciding program started June 1 and will continue until Sept. 30. It takes three weeks to complete a round of larviciding.

There will be three rounds of roadside catch basin larviciding this year. The first round of roadside catch basin larviciding was completed July 15. Larviciding crews are currently starting the second round of catch basin treatments in Mississauga. The second round is indicated by a purple dot affixed to the catch basin grate.

Larviciding of catch basins in the green spaces of parks in Peel has been completed. The treatment of surface water sites on public lands is ongoing.

The Region is reminding residents they can reduce the risk of WNV by removing stagnant water on their property. Empty or dispose of containers that can hold water, such as old tires, wheelbarrows, barrels, pails, toys and recycling bins; turn over wading pools, remove water that collects on pool covers; and make sure swimming pool pumps are circulating.

People can also protect themselves from being bitten by mosquitoes by avoiding areas with large numbers of mosquitoes; wearing light-coloured clothing, including long sleeves, long pants, socks and a hat whenever outdoors (even in the backyard), especially at dusk and at dawn; and using an insect repellent and applying it according to the manufacturer's directions