

More activity last week on West Nile Virus front in Peel

Six mosquito pools in the region tested positive last week for West Nile Virus (WNV), but none of them are in Caledon.

Peel Public Health reported five of those pools were in Brampton and the other was in Mississauga. This makes eight pools that have tested positive in Peel so far this year (six in Brampton and two in Mississauga).

There have been positive pools found elsewhere in Ontario, but no human cases of the disease have been reported. There have also been positive pools found in Quebec and Saskatchewan, but no human cases anywhere in the country.

Peel's adult mosquito surveillance program started June 19. Adult mosquitoes are being collected weekly from mosquito traps at 31 fixed locations throughout the region until late September.

As of Saturday, 265 mosquito batches have been tested for WNV.

The Region's larviciding program is continuing. It involves applying environmentally-friendly products to reduce mosquito larvae in stagnant water. The 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.