

Second positive mosquito pool found in Bolton

Peel Public Health is reporting another mosquito pool in Bolton has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

This is the second positive result reported in Caledon this year, and was noted in the latest update, issued last week by the Region. It covers the week that ended Aug. 24.

There have been 35 pools throughout the Region that have tested positive so far this season, including 18 in Brampton and 15 in Mississauga. So far, there has been only probable human case of the disease, and that was found in Mississauga. There have been no confirmed cases.

The adult mosquito surveillance program started June 10. Adult mosquitoes are being collected weekly from mosquito traps at 31 fixed locations throughout Peel until late September. To date, 738 mosquito batches have been tested with the 35 positive results. The larviciding program started May 30 and will continue until Sept. 30. 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 third and final round of larviciding began in south Mississauga Aug. 9, and crews are currently working in Brampton. The third round is indicated by a pink dot on the catch basin grate. It takes three weeks to complete a round of larviciding.

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

Residents can help reduce the number of mosquitoes around their homes by eliminating stagnant water on the property, and by following these tips:

- ? Empty or dispose of containers that can hold water, such as old tires, wheelbarrows, barrels, pails, toys and recycling bins.
- ? Turn over wading pools when they are not in use, remove water that collects on pool covers and make sure the pool's pump is circulating.
- ? Change water in birdbaths weekly.
- ? Clear leaves and twigs from eavestroughs.

For more tips, visit www.peel-bugbite.ca