

Still no human cases of WNV?in Peel

As of July 13, there have been no human cases reported of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Peel Region.

The Region's health department released it's most recent West Nile update Thursday (July 18).

The adult mosquito surveillance program started June 10. Adult mosquitoes are being collected weekly from mosquito traps at 31 fixed locations throughout the region until late September. To date, 165 mosquito batches have been tested and two batches have tested positive; both in Mississauga.

Peel Public Health received 19 stagnant water reports from residents over the week ending July 13.

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 second round of larviciding was scheduled to begin last week in south Mississauga. The locations are to be indicated by a white dot on the catch basin grate. It takes three weeks to complete a round of larviciding.

There will be a third round of roadside catch basin larviciding this year.

Larviciding of catch basins in the green spaces of parks 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

There have been two other WNV-positive mosquito batches found in Ontario so far this year; one in Durham and the other in Hamilton. Another batch has been found in Saskatchewan. There have been no human cases of WNV?anywhere in Canada this year. There are 14 human cases in the United States: six in Mississippi, two in each of Nevada and Texas, and one in each of California, Colorado, South Dakota and Tennessee.

Peel Region will continue to provide information on Lyme disease and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) at www.peel-bugbite.ca

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care also has information about Lyme disease on their website at www.ontario.ca/lyme