

Still no West Nile Virus pools found in Caledon

The last week of August saw four more pools in Peel Region test positive for West Nile Virus (WNV), but they were all in Brampton.

Peel Public Health reported that brought the total for the year to 14 pools in the region, with 11 of them in Brampton and three in Mississauga. There have been no positive pools reported in Caledon yet this year.

WNV is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Everyone who is outside during the warmer months is at risk and should take steps to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

Most people who catch West Nile virus will experience fever, head and body aches, a mild rash and swollen lymph glands. More serious symptoms include encephalitis (swelling of the brain), difficulty swallowing and confusion. Adults 50 years of age and older and people with underlying medical conditions and/or weaker immune systems are at greater risk.

The adult mosquito surveillance program started June 15. Adult mosquitoes will continue to be collected weekly from traps at 31 fixed locations throughout Peel until late September. To date, 768 mosquito batches have been tested.

There are no human cases of WNV reported in Peel.

The larviciding program started June 1 and will continue until Sept. 30. Larviciding involves applying environmentally friendly products to reduce mosquito larvae living in stagnant water. The products are applied to municipal catch basins and selected sites on public property.

The third round of roadside catch basin larviciding is being conducted, and is indicated by a white dot on the catch basin grate.

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

To date, there have been 63 WNV-positive mosquito batches in Ontario, including the 14 in Peel. There have been 13 in Windsor-Essex, 11 in Toronto, four in Halton, three each in Hamilton, Ottawa, Niagara and York, and one each in Brant County, Chatham-Kent, Eastern Ontario, Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge, Lambton, Hastings and Prince Edward, Middlesex-London, Simcoe Muskoka and Waterloo.

There have been eight reported WNV human cases; two each from Toronto and Niagara and one each from Chatham-Kent, eastern Ontario, Waterloo and Windsor-Essex.

To date, there have been two positive mosquito batches reported outside of Ontario: one each in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

There are 303 human cases of WNV in the United States so far, including 57 in California, 45 in Arizona and 35 in Texas.