

Halton resident tests positive for West Nile virus

A Halton resident has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first human case for Halton this year.

Halton Region is committed to being safe and healthy. Until the fall frost, Halton residents should continue to protect themselves against mosquito bites and remove mos-

quito breeding sites, said Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region Medical Officer of Health. While 80 per cent of people infected with West Nile virus will have no symptoms, others will have West Nile fever consisting of fever, headache, muscle ache and a rash. If residents are concerned or experiencing symptoms, I

would encourage them to visit their health care professional.

Urban areas are more likely to have mosquitoes that carry WNV. The types of mosquitoes that transmit WNV to humans most commonly breed in urban areas and in places that hold standing water such as bird baths, plant pots, old

toys, and tires.

Residents are encouraged to take the following steps to protect themselves and their families from mosquitoes:

- Cover up. Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and pants with tightly-woven fabric.

- Avoid being outdoors from early evening to morning when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, as well as at any time in shady, wooded areas.

- Reduce mosquito breeding sites around your home by getting rid of all water-filled containers and objects, where possible. Change the water in bird baths at least once per week.

- Use an approved insect repellent, such as one containing DEET or Icaridin.

- Make sure your window and door screens are tight and without holes, cuts or other openings.

As part of its ongoing West Nile prevention program, Halton Region staff continually monitor areas of



Some tips to protect yourself from mosquitoes are to cover up and avoid being outdoors from early evening to morning. *File photo*

standing water, eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites and larvicide when mosquito larvae is found. A map showing the locations of standing water sites on public properties that have had larvicide applied this year is available at halton.ca/wnv.

To report standing water at public facilities or for more information about West Nile virus, please visit halton.ca/wnv or dial 311.

Halton police issue more than 2,000 tickets during Project Safe Start

Halton Regional Police issued more than 2,000 tickets across the region during this year's Project Safe Start, an initiative intended to keep children safe during their first week back at school.

The weeklong campaign ran from Sept. 7-13 with officers making their presence felt in and around school zones in an effort to get motorists to slow down, watch for pedestrians, and pay attention to school crossing guards escorting children across

busy intersections.

Police concentrated on a number of dangerous driving behaviours with the top four that earned residents tickets being speeding, disobeying stop signs, distracted driving and administrative offences.

In total police issued 2,299 tickets.

Traffic safety is a service and community priority in Halton Region, said Sgt. Ryan Snow, Traffic Services Unit.

While Project Safe Start formally

ends, officers will continue to enforce the rules of the road in a bid to make ours safer for everyone.

Residents are reminded they can file driving complaints or request enforcement of a particular area online at www.haltonpolice.ca under Most Requested Information-Roadwatch or Traffic Complaints respectively.

Criminal/dangerous driving should be reported immediately by calling 911.



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