

Human West Nile case in Burlington

A preliminary report from the Ontario Public Health Toronto laboratory said the death of a Burlington female in her seventies last week was associated with West Nile Virus (WNV) infection. Confirmatory testing is underway.

Halton's mosquito surveillance program has found WNV in batches of mosquitoes – including Acton – for five consecutive weeks, indicating that the risk for hu-

man WNV illness continues to be elevated in Halton. "August and September are the months of highest WNV activity in mosquitoes and when human cases are most likely to occur," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's Medical Officer of Health, adding that while the risk of serious illness is low, it is prudent for all Halton residents, and especially older persons, to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

Approximately 80 per cent of persons infected with WNV do not become noticeably ill, and 20 per cent experience West Nile fever with chills, headache, muscle aches, nausea and vomiting, and sometimes a rash. Less than one per cent develop neurologic disease such as inflammation of the brain or paralysis of one or more arms or legs. Death is rare, occurring in less than one in a thousand infections.



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Erin girl dies after falling off her horse.
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Tree cutting stopped on 32 Side Road - for now.
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ACE ANGLERS: Jack Munday's eight-inch Small Mouth Bass (left) and Zachery Knight's eight-and-a-quarter inch Rock Bass were winners at the annual Gary Munday Fishing Derby held on Sunday at the Acton Legion. – Ted Tyler photo

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