

West Nile-positive mosquitoes spreading in Halton Region

GRAEME FRISQUE
gfrisque@metroland.com

Two more test batches of trapped mosquitoes have tested positive for the West Nile virus - this time, in Burlington.

These two make seven total batches showing mosquitoes carrying the disease in the region, after the Halton Region Health department discovered four in Oakville and one in Milton earlier in this summer.

Three dead crows found in Milton also tested positive for the disease last month.

Halton Hills is now the only regional municipality without a positive test to date this year.

"The Halton Region Health Department works diligently to reduce the risk of West Nile virus in our community through both education and preventative programs such as larviciding," said Dr. Julie Emili, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Halton Region. "We

can all work together to keep our community safe and protect ourselves from West Nile virus by removing standing water sites that breed mosquitoes and covering up or applying DEET or Icaridin when outside during dusk and dawn."

According to a release sent Thursday (July 27), the region says urban areas are more likely to attract the types of mosquitoes able to transmit the disease to humans. Those prefer to breed in urban areas where standing water in places like bird baths, plant pots, and kids' toys are prevalent.

The region is suggesting residents to take the following steps to protect themselves and their families from bites from potentially infected mosquitoes.

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

- Use an approved insect repellent, such as one con-



Lana Slezic/Metroland

Wildlife biologist Patricia Landry sets up a mosquito trap by the stagnant still water pond at Riverdale Farm.

taining DEET or Icaridin.

- 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.

- Make sure your win-

dow and door screens are tight and without holes, cuts, or other openings.

- 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.

According to Health Canada, most people infected with the virus show no symptoms at all.

"Symptoms can range

from mild to severe. Most people (70 per cent to 80 per cent) who are infected with West Nile virus have no symptoms."

Mild symptoms first appear within two to 15 days and can include fever, headache, body aches, mild rash, and swollen lymph glands.

"Anyone infected with West Nile virus can be at risk of developing more severe symptoms and health effects. Adults 50 years or older and those with underlying conditions or weaker immune systems, however, are at greater risk," adds Health Canada on its website.

The region provides a map showing the locations of standing water sites that have had larvicide applied, that can be found at halton.ca/wnv. Residents looking for more information or wishing to report standing water at public facilities should visit halton.ca/wnv, call 3-1-1, or email wnv@halton.ca.

Sizzling Summer Specials



PW
PROVEN
WINNERS

Potentilla
25% off*
*Regular retail price.



All Fruit
Trees
25% off*
*Regular retail price.

Including Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums and Cherries.
Come in early for the best selection! While supplies last.



Sheridan
Nurseries
100 YEARS

Sheridan Nurseries

12266 Tenth Line | 905-873-7547

www.sheridannurseries.com



SAVE
25% off*
*Regular retail price.

All Brackets & Wall Hooks

*Sale price ends Tuesday, August 15th, 2017