

# CLIPPITY CLIPS



## Horse News and Views



◆ A number of clients are inquiring how to diagnose or confirm West Nile Virus (WNV) in their horse(s). The signs exhibited in horses with WNV are similar to those seen in horses suffering from a number of equine diseases, including rabies, eastern equine encephalitis and wobblers syndrome. Signs of illness may include ataxia, difficulty walking, knuckling over, head tilt, muscle twitches or tremors, inability to stand, circling, weakness or paralysis of limbs, apparent blindness, lip droop, grinding teeth and death. In a case where a horse dies or is euthanized, rabies must be ruled out. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency must be notified of a rabies suspect. Confirmation of a diagnosis of WNV in a live horse requires that two blood samples be taken (an acute and a convalescent) three weeks apart and submitted together to the laboratory. Confirmation of WNV in a dead horse requires that a sample of the brain stem, either chilled or frozen, be submitted to the laboratory.

◆ Equine arteritis virus (EAV), the causative agent of equine viral arteritis (EVA), is occasionally diagnosed in horses. EAV causes an influenza-like illness in adult horses, abortion in mares and interstitial pneumonia in foals. Severe edematous swelling of the legs and scrotum and an urticarial reaction of the skin are commonly seen. The virus is contagious by the aerosol route from foals, mares and geldings for less than 14 days. Stallions, however, persistently shed the virus in their semen. Persistently infected stallions are the critical reservoirs of the virus. (Hullinger *et al.* Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association 2001; 219 (2): 946-952)

For further information contact Dr. Bob Wright (519) 846-3412 or visit our website: <http://www.gov.on.ca/omaf/english/livestock>



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## Moffat water

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effects on the watershed, the increased truck traffic, and the effects on property values. The water that's here is community water. It's the water the neighbours use to farm, to enjoy the birds and fauna that live in the wetlands, and the water that feeds into that watershed."

The increased truck traffic in the area is of utmost concern to the residents.

"That's probably the main issue the neighbours have," admits Mr. Hatch, who predicts that if his application is approved, the truck activity will be four to six loads per day from September to April, and eight to 10 loads per day during the peak season of May to August. "If business ever grows to the point where we need more than 10 to 12 truckloads a day in peak season, we need to build a pipeline to a loading location on a year round road," explains Mr. Hatch. Concession Road 11, Sideroad 15 and County Road 36 all have spring load limits for trucks.

"One of my main concerns is the trucking," says Mrs. Kimmerer. "Six truckloads a day now means six trips in and six trips out each day. If this application is granted, could that mean 12 trucks in, and 12 trucks out daily?"

Roseanne Warren is concerned, not only on the effects the extra pollution will bring to her asthmatic son and other asthmatic children in the area, but also how the increased traffic will effect her ability to enjoy her neighbourhood. "We all depend on the roads that these trucks will use," she explains. "We walk on these roads, ride bicycles or horses and push buggies on these roads."

"I'm not trying to pick fights with people, I'm trying to get along here," says Mr. Hatch. In July he distributed a ten-page discussion paper and development proposal to local neighbours. The proposal offers to pay a royalty to Puslinch Township of \$5 per load for each tanker load leav-

ing the site, partial payment of the property taxes of the four closest neighbours as well as a \$5,000 grant to each of these neighbours for privacy fencing and/or plantings to screen the properties. He maintains that the hours of operation for the site will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Saturday with no operation on Sundays and holidays. He has also offered Puslinch Township an additional \$5,000 per year for police and security patrol to check for high speed traffic, and between \$100,000 and \$165,000 for road upgrades on Concession 11.

Thus far, none of the neighbours have accepted Mr. Hatch's offer to meet and work out some kind of deal.

"If we're taking money, we become accessories to this," explains Mr. Warren. "If we're being paid, and people's wells go dry, we'll feel responsible." His wife Rosanne added, "It's not fair to our neighbours. They'll get increased truck traffic, but our property taxes are paid for. We're not comfortable with that, they're our neighbours and our friends."

As of press time, neighbouring residents had refused to meet with Mr. Hatch.

"I've made concessions voluntarily and we can't work out an agreement if people won't talk to me," says Mr. Hatch. "I feel this approach is balanced, fair and worth considering."

"We need for people to be concerned about this," says Mrs. Warren. "This isn't just about here, this is a provincial issue."

Nassaw Springs' application will remain open for public comment until November 18th. Written submissions to comment on the application must bear the EBR Registry Number IA02E1128 and be addressed to the PTTW Assistant, West Central Region, 119 King Street West, 12th Floor, Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y7. All comments and submissions received will become part of the public record.

# Heroes of the Horse

The horse has been our trusted companion for millennia beyond memory, and to celebrate the Year of the Horse, and to raise funds for the Nutraceutical Alliance and the Equine Research Centre at the University of Guelph, Dr. Robert Leeds has created an event to appeal to every horse-lover's senses.

Heroes of the Horse takes place at the Stratford Festival Theatre on December 8 at 7 pm. Honouring great work in the name of these magnificent creatures, many special guests have been rounded up to celebrate. Guest of honour Lucy Peacock, star of the Stratford Festival, and actor William Shatner are two of the well-known attendants. Mr. Shatner is known for his philanthropic work for The Hollywood Charity Horse Show.

As well, many political dignitaries and horsepeople in the world will appear at this exclusive black tie event. Creative work that celebrates the horse will be recognized, such as *The Ghost Horse of the Mounties*, written by Sean O'Huigin, Dreamworks SKG's film, *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*, and musician Bryan Adams' contribution to the same animated movie. Top Canadian Equestrian Ian Miller, David Willmot, and the Ontario Veterinary College are also some of the valuable contributors. Multimedia programs included in the evening are *Hollywood*

on *Horseback: Great Moments of the Horse in Film*; *Horse Heroes Forever: Remembering Our Most Beloved Race Horses*, and *A Harvard for Horses: Canada's New 'Horse Health Institute.'* Tickets are limited, so book

early by calling Ticketmaster at 416-870-8000. Admission is \$160.50, and VIP passes are \$267.50 (including GST). Funds raised will benefit the Equine Research Centre at the University of Guelph.

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