To combat West Nile virus

Acton sites targeted for larviciding

arvicide will be applied to two standing water sites where mosquito larvae have been found in Acton by Halton Region in an attempt to reduce the risk of West Nile Virus to area residents.

At press time a spokesperson at Halton Region Health Department could not provide the specific Acton locations. The larvicide will also be applied at three sites in Burlington and two in Oakville.

The larvicide, Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti), will be applied to reduce the number of mosquito larvae.

"Halton Region is committed to minimizing the spread of West Nile virus," said Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. "Our top priority is the health and safety of our residents."

Bti is considered safe and prior to making the decision to larvicide, the region looked at each location to see if the problem could be corrected by either removing the water or changing grading to limit standing water.

"The Health Department has a comprehensive plan for this year's West Nile virus season," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's Medical Officer of Health. "Larviciding is one piece of our strategy to protect the health of Halton residents."

Notices of larviciding will be placed in local newspapers and signs will posted at the sites when the larvicides are applied. The locations will also be listed on the health department's Web site www.region.halton.on.ca/health.

Residents are reminded they can assist in the fight against West Nile virus by reporting dead birds to the health department. Dead birds can be reported by calling 1-866-4HAL-TON (1-866-442-5866). The health department monitors reports of all dead birds to assist in

tracking the spread of the virus in the community

For more information about WNV and see a map of locations larvicided visit the Health Department's Web site (address above) or call the health department at 1-866-442-5866.

How to help fight WNV...

With West Nile Virus (WNV) season approaching Halton Region Health Department is asking area residents to do their part to control the spread of the virus.

Residents are encouraged to remove old tires, buckets or even toys that are in their yards collecting water— all areas where mosquitoes are likely to breed.

Residents are also asked to report dead bird sightings to the health department to track the spread of the virus.

The health department will not be picking up all dead birds, but staff will tell the caller how to dispose of the bird. Some of the dead birds reported by residents will be sent for WNV testing.

Reporting of dead birds allows the health department to track the presence and progression of the virus within the community. Those who call to report a dead bird, are asked to provide as much information as possible including:

- Type or description of bird
- Address of closest house
- How long the bird has been there
- Cause of death, if known

To report a dead bird or for more information about WNV call the Health Department at 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866), or visit the Web site at www.region.halton.on.ca/health.



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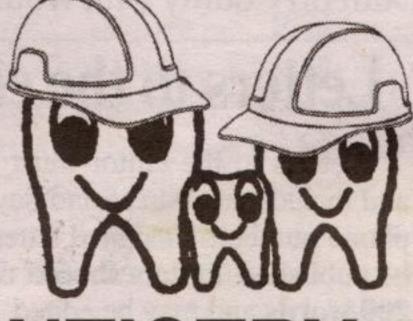
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