

Van returned to scene of theft

A man has been charged with theft and possession of stolen property after taking a van from a Wildwood Rd. business.

Between 5 p.m. Friday and 3:45 p.m. Saturday, someone broke a small garage door window at the business and keys to a white 1995 Ford cube van were taken.

After taking the van, the driver was involved in an accident in Peel Region but failed to remain at the scene. The van was later returned to the garage but, based on a description of the van and the driver, Peel Police were able to identify the driver.

Charged is Gordon Burton, 50, of no fixed address.

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Region confirms two 'probable' WNV cases

A Burlington man and woman have become the first two suspected human cases of West Nile virus in Halton Region in three years.

The region's health department confirmed this week what it is calling the first two "probable" cases of WNV here since 2002.

Citing patient confidentiality, health officials will not release the name, age or current health status of the infected people. They will say that the man and woman are both in their 40s and both live in south Burlington.

"This individual presented with flu-like symptoms, which is the less

severe form of the disease," Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal said in a press release Wednesday about the man.

Nosal's colleague, Dr. Monir Taha, the associate medical officer of health, said he couldn't elaborate on his condition.

"The person is not in hospital at this time," said Taha, adding he couldn't say whether he had been hospitalized recently or comment on the man's general health prior to him being diagnosed with WNV.

Yesterday (Thursday) the health department issued another release about the woman with probable WNV. She is recovering at home

after a brief hospitalization related to the virus.

Taha said he believes the man contracted the virus close to home.

August and September are the months of highest risk for WNV infection in humans, says the health department.

West Nile is spread primarily through the sting of an infected mosquito. The pesky insects acquire the virus by biting birds, specifically species of crows and jays, which have the disease.

Health officials say about 80 per cent of people with WNV exhibit no symptoms. About 20 per cent can get a fever, head and muscle aches or a rash. One per cent of those infected become seriously ill with encephalitis (brain swelling), paralysis or difficulty speaking.

In most cases the symptoms are reversible. In some severe cases, it can take months or longer than a year to recover.

Like many childhood illnesses, such as measles and chickenpox, Taha said when you become infected with WNV you become immune to the virus.

Halton was most impacted by WNV in '02 with 58 confirmed and two probable human cases— one of which involved a Halton Hills resident.

For more information about WNV, call the region at 905-825-6000 or visit its web site at www.region.halton.on.ca.

—By Tim Whitnell, special

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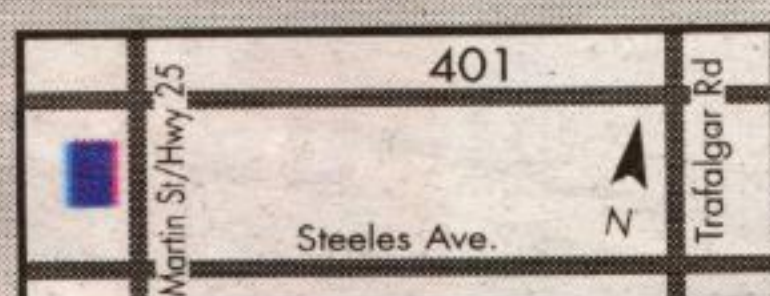
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