

Bird tests positive for West Nile virus

For the first time so far this season a dead bird found in Georgetown has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV).

The crow was found in the Mountainview Rd. and Guelph St. area. Previously, dead birds found in Oakville and Burlington had tested positive for WNV.

While there have been no human cases of WNV in Halton, now through the end of September is considered the peak season for human infection.

Halton Region Health Department recommends residents take steps to protect themselves from WNV.

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

- Avoid being outdoors in the early evening to morning. This is

when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, as well as at any time in shady, wooded areas.

- Use an approved insect repellent, such as one containing DEET.

The risk of serious illness from WNV increases with increasing age.

Halton Health Department is advising Halton residents, especially older adults and the elderly to protect themselves against mosquito bites to reduce the risk of becoming infected with the virus.

In 2003, a local study found that 80 per cent of people who had become infected with the virus had no symptoms. However, roughly 20 per cent of people infected developed fever, headache, muscle aches, and rash. And one per cent of those infected became seriously ill with a neurological syndrome, which can

include encephalitis (swelling of the brain), paralysis and difficulty with speech. The infection can be fatal in rare situations.

If you have symptoms of WNV, consult your physician.

The announcement about the infected crow found in Halton Hills comes just a week after Halton Health Department reported two of nine mosquito batches in Georgetown tested positive for WNV. WNV positive mosquitoes have also been found in, Burlington, Oakville and Milton.

Information about WNV, as well as a map showing locations of WNV activity found in Halton is available at Halton's website at www.halton.ca/wnv

To report a dead bird or standing water, call Halton Region at 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866) TTY 905-827-9833.

Police blotter

Local man beaten in bar parking lot

A 20-year-old Georgetown man was injured in the parking lot at Nashville North early Friday morning in an altercation with several males.

Halton Police report the altercation was between six males and the victim and a friend. The victim was kicked and punched and suffered a broken collarbone. He also required stitches and was treated at Georgetown Hospital.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 905-878-5511 ext. 2105.



Police remind area residents not to be easy targets for thieves by locking their vehicles after they received several reports of entries into unlocked cars over the past few days.

Recent occurrences include:

- CDs, binoculars and a knife valued at \$300 in total were taken from a vehicle parked at a Joycelyn Cr. home overnight Monday and Tuesday.

- A skateboard (valued at \$195) and clothes were taken from an unlocked vehicle in a municipal parking lot in the Church St./Market St. area overnight Monday and Tuesday.

- Sunglasses and wallet were taken from an unlocked vehicle parked at a Harold St. home overnight Wednesday/Thursday.

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