# Health department asks public to report sightings of dead birds

The public is asked to report any sightings of dead crows or blue jays to the health department as part of a program to monitor the West Nile Virus.

The virus affects wild birds, mainly crows and blue jays, and can be transmitted to humans through the bite of a mosquito.

Staff from the Halton Region Health Department will assess reports and, if necessary, pick up dead birds to be sent to a laboratory for analysis.

Most people infected with the West Nile Virus (WNV) won't feel sick. Those most at risk for the disease include persons over the age of 50 years, the very young and persons with weakened immune systems.

Symptoms of the disease include mild fever, headache, stiff neck, muscle weakness, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. In rare cases, the illness may be more serious, causing encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

There's no specific treatment and no vaccine against WNV. Last year in New York State, the virus affected 21 people and caused two deaths.

While the risk of transmission of WNV to humans is low, the public is advised to take precautions to protect themselves against mosquitoes. Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when outdoors in the evening or early morning. If you choose to use insect repellent, use a repellent that contains DEET (not recommended for use for infants aged under six months old).

In addition to taking personal protective measures, you can also take steps to reduce mosquito breeding areas. Remove or change all standing water around your

### Golf tourney to raise funds for CF cause

Golfers are getting ready to tee off for the sixth annual Mike Mascarin Memorial Golf Tournament Sunday, May 27.

This year's venue has moved from Burlington to Milton's Granite Ridge Golf Club to accommodate more golfers in a shotgun start.

"We're really excited about the format this year," says tournament organizer Nina Mascarin. "It allows for more golfers and more money going to a good cause."

Since its inception in 1996, the tournament has raised \$66,500 for cystic fibrosis (CF) research. Organizers hope to raise \$15,000 this year.

The tournament is named in honor of Mike Mascarin, a Grimsby resident who died in 1996 from CF-related complications. He was 34.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that kills young children and adults. One in 2,500 Canadians are born with CF.

While a cure has yet to be found, some people with CF can extend their short life expectancies with a high-risk, double-lung transplant.

The tournament also tries to raise organdonor awareness. Golfers who have signed their organ donor card are entered in a 'thank-you draw' that makes them eligible to win a bird woodcarving by Wayne Inkster, a Binbrook artist and teacher who taught Mr. Mascarin the craft.

The tournament includes a silent and live auction and dinner. Tickets cost \$150.

For more information call organizer Angela Goodwin at (905)643-2999.

home by turning over or removing containers that hold water and change the water in birdbaths every few days.

In 2000, WNV was identified in birds as close to 3 km to the Canadian border in Niagara Falls, New York.

No cases of WNV in birds or humans

were identified in Ontario. However, experts predict that it will occur in the province in 2001.

For more information regarding WNV, call the Halton Region Health Department Infection Control Program at (905) 825-6060 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

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The HRCC-S encourages local employers to hire a student by providing the highest level of quality service possible. High school, college and university students have a wealth of talent and ambition to offer employers. It is May already and the summer job hunt has begun! Don't miss out on these hard-working, anxious employees. Post your job opening with us today!

For further information, or to post your summer employment opportunities, please phone (905) 878-8418 ext. 214 or fax us at (905) 878-6861. You can also drop by and visit the Milton Human Resource Centre of Canada for Students at:

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