

## Virus rare in humans: Dr. Nosal

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area are in fact harbouring the WNV. WNV is transmitted by mosquitoes after they become infected by feeding on the blood of birds carrying the virus.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit has also received trapping equipment from the ministry. (A crow found in Windsor August 8 also tested positive for WNV.) Seven other southern Ontario health departments will be similarly equipped.

According to Dr. Nosal, the traps will be set by public health inspectors and checked daily. The mosquitoes inside will be sent to Brock University for counting then tested at the same federal laboratory in Winnipeg where the jay was examined.

Two kinds of traps will be used. The first, called a 'Gravid' trap, uses scented water to attract female mosquitoes that have had a blood meal and are looking for a place to lay eggs, after which a fan sucks them into a holding net.

The second type employs a black light and carbon dioxide to lure all types of mosquitoes, which are likewise kept in a holding net.

Mosquitoes need to be taken alive to test for WNV.

According to Gord Haugh, spokesman for Ontario Health Minister Tony Clement, it's likely the dead blue jay found in Oakville August 13 was infected somewhere between Hamilton and Toronto.

"What we're trying to do is find a population of mosquitoes with the virus, said Mr. Haugh. "But we may not be able to find any. It's possible whatever stung the bird has died off."

Mr. Haugh said the ministry will wait until the virus is found in Ontario mosquitoes before considering using pesticides — a controversial move because the chemicals can be harmful to people and animals.

"We're basically at the end of the (mosquito) season," he said. "Given the fact that it's so late, I'm not sure the damage that can be done versus the benefit would be useful."

In May, the health department implemented a dead bird surveillance program in order to monitor for the presence of WNV. As a result, the public is being asked to report any sightings of dead crows or blue jays at (905) 825-6060.

Dr. Nosal said the health department has received about 230 calls about dead bird sightings, a third of them last week after word spread about the dead jay.

According to Health Canada, most people infected with WNV don't get sick. Those most at risk include those over age 50, the very young and those with weakened immune systems.

Symptoms — which can begin three to 15 days following the bite of an infected mosquito — include mild fever, headache, stiff neck, muscle weakness, skin rashes and swollen lymph glands. In rare cases the illness may cause encephalitis (brain inflammation). There's no specific treatment and no vaccine

# Nassagaweya fair to be held at raceway

Safety and security of our environment will be the theme of the Nassagaweya Community Fair coming up September 22 at Mohawk Raceway.

Mayor Gord Krantz will officially open the fair, accompanied by Town Councillors Cindy Lunau and Ken Keates along with Halton Regional Police Superintendent Mike Kingston.

The fair will feature numerous displays, exhibits and informative interactive events.

Visitors will be invited to take part in the NassCar Road Rally (participants must be licenced driver). Teams consisting of driver and navigator will attempt to travel a specified route at exactly the speed posted. Travelling too fast will result in penalties, as well as driving too slow. The route will be through the Nassagaweya countryside. The team entry fee includes t-shirts, lunch, maps and prizes.

Kids will be invited to bring their bikes for the Bicycle Rodeo.

A trick bicyclist will show off his stuff.

Visitors will be able to get information brochures on how to help curb aggressive driving at the Road Watch display.

The Radar Message Board will be demonstrated for residents concerned about speeders in their area. Residents may borrow the board for free.

Mike West will demonstrate how the board is used.

An OPP Roll Over Simulator will

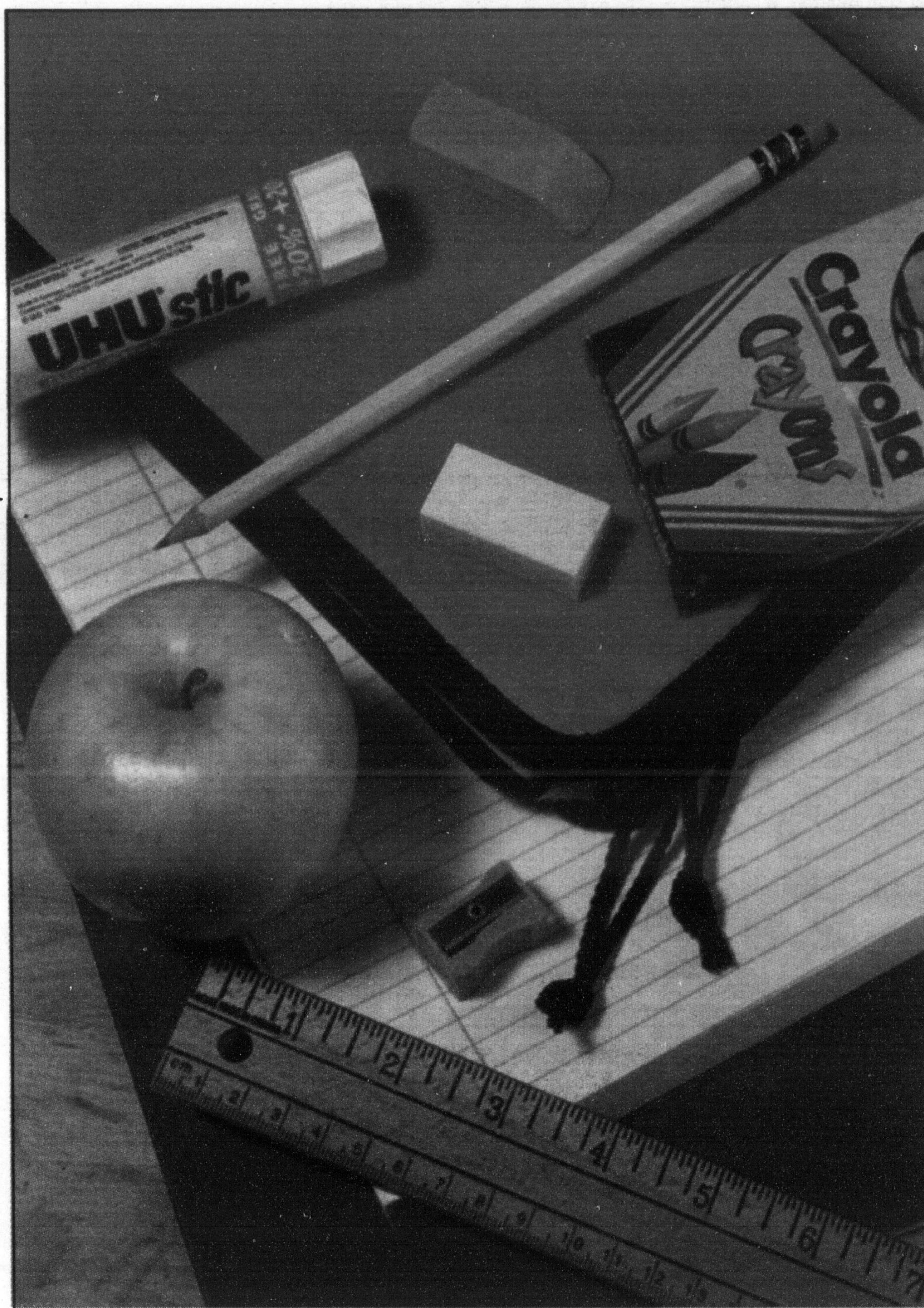
also be demonstrated to show how a person not wearing a seat belt during a roll over is endangering his own life and that of passengers as well.

A barbecue lunch will be available at modest cost.

All profits will go toward the cost of hosting dances in Milton, Brookville and Campbellville on a rotating basis for teens.

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Jan Mowbray at (519) 853-4492.



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