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## No mosquito larvae found in region yet

By **JASON MISNER**  
*The Champion*

Following Halton's first round of catch basin testing done over the last week, there's no sign yet of the wriggling larvae that can grow into buzzing, biting adult mosquitoes and risk carrying the West Nile virus.

At press time yesterday, 30 random catch basins had been tested in Halton, resulting in no larvae being detected. No larvae had been found in standing pools of water, either.

Halton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal said even though larvae haven't yet been found, that has no bearing on whether West Nile could be less or more severe this summer.

"It simply tells me they (larvae) haven't been found yet," said Dr. Nosal. "It has nothing to do with might happen later in the year. But I expect they will be found very soon."

The Region is trying to hunt down two larvae species in particular - Culex and Aedes - that are known adult carriers of West Nile.

Culex is found in catch basins and Aedes is found in standing pools of water.

Halton's \$800,000 West Nile battle plan is a multi-pronged attack of dipping, larviciding, monitoring and public education.

Nine university students and two public health officials are involved in the program.

In the dipping process to find larvae, the Region samples water using a long pole with a cup attached at one end.

If larvae are found in catch basins - which amounts to 35,000 in Halton - they will be larvicided with a pellet-like pesticide called methoprene.

Larvae discovered in standing pools of water - totalling about 250 in the region - will be larvicided with a briquette-like pesticide called Bti.

Both are safe to the public and the environment.

Two dead crows were found to have West Nile within the last month and health officials are awaiting test results of dead crows found in Halton.

On Wednesday, a dead crow in Ottawa was tested and confirmed to have the virus. And a dead crow, found in late April in Newmarket, had the virus.

Two crows found this week in Halton have been sent to Guelph, where dead birds are being tested for the virus, Dr. Nosal said. The results should come back some

• see **MOSQUITOES** on page 2



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Training day

Halton Regional Police Const. Amanda Dunn unexpectedly catches a little air as she rides through the log hop section of a training course for bike patrol officers. The training took place this week in the courthouse parking lot on Steeles Avenue.

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 • Truserv Canada • Mississauga News New Homes •  
 • MDG Computers • Future Shop • Careers 2003 •  
 \*Selected areas only

## Man stabbed in the chest

A Milton man is in hospital and his nephew in jail after a stabbing at a Brampton home early Monday morning.

The 40-year-old was stabbed in the chest with a 15-cm kitchen knife during an argument at a family dinner in a Brampton home, said Peel Regional Police.

The suspect was found in the area still holding the knife, police said.

The attack happened at a Vintage Gate home at about 2 a.m. The victim was taken to Brampton Memorial Hospital for treatment. He suffered a punctured lung.

Meer Ramaman, 21, of Scarborough has been charged with assault with a weapon and aggravated assault.

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