

### Correction Notice

In Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>'s Grewal Gardens ad, it should have read -

**Sale on until Tues, August 5th.**

The Champion apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

## Police seeking witnesses in connection with crash

Halton Regional Police are seeking help from the public as their investigation continues into a fatal collision July 20.

The investigating officer would like to speak to anybody who observed a black Ford Thunderbird convertible driving in an erratic or aggressive manner in the Niagara, Hamilton, Burlington or Milton areas in the early afternoon July 20.

The fatal single-vehicle crash occurred at about 3:30 p.m. on Steeles Avenue, west of Peru Road. The vehi-

cle, a 2002 Ford Thunderbird convertible, was traveling eastbound when the driver lost control and the vehicle went off the road, colliding with a wooden hydro pole.

Reza Maljeh, 43, of Toronto was pronounced dead at the scene.

A female passenger was treated for minor injuries at Milton District Hospital and released.

Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Const. Paul Davies at (905) 825-4777, ext. 5056.

## West Nile virus found in crow in Burlington

By JASON MISNER

The Champion

West Nile virus has been detected in a dead crow in Halton for the first time this year.

The crow was found July 19 in an urban part of Burlington, south of the QEW, and was sent to Guelph for testing July 21. Results came back positive late Thursday.

To date in the region, a total of 15 crows — considered the most common bird species to carry the mosquito-borne virus — have been tested. To report a dead bird, call (905) 825-6187.

Peter Willmott, director of Halton's public health department, said West Nile appeared a month later this year than last year when 14 crows tested positive for West Nile.

"We started the (surveillance and monitoring) program around the same time as last year," Mr. Willmott said.

So when asked what it means to find West Nile later this season compared to 2002, he said "it's difficult to comment." Health officials earlier said the prolonged, cooler spring we experienced might have played a factor in limiting the impact of mosquito development.

More than half of the province's 36 health units have reported at least one bird felled by the West Nile virus this year. And local statistics revealed that human cases in Halton began to show up in 2002 about three to four weeks after dead crows with West Nile began to peak.

### Burlington man first human case

A Burlington man was the first reported human case of the virus in Canada in August last year.

What is certain, Mr. Willmott said, is the need to protect yourself from mosquitoes.

"I think the important message is we should continue to take whatever precautions to prevent against mosquito bites. Those kinds of messages are the same as last year."

That includes using mosquito repellent with DEET, wearing light-coloured clothing and staying away from populated mosquito areas at dawn and dusk.

The health department will be extra vigilant over the next while, increasing surveillance and monitoring in the area of Burlington where the dead crow was found.

• see REGION on page 10



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