

SHORT NOTICE ON SITE

Auction sale for Teresa Lister
Saturday, August 2nd
at 10:00am Sharp

*Located at 9414 First Line, Nassagaweya, RR#1 Moffat
 (Go west on Campbellville Sideroad from Guelph Line
 to First Line and North to 9414)*

An excellent sale of Nearly All New Carpentry & Construction Tools, lumber, antique furniture - every kind of tool you can think of from hand & power tools to air compressors, gas powered generator, shapers, sanders, drill press, lathe, nailers, sandblaster, bench grinder, motors, saws, antique pine 1 pc. stepback cupboard, 45" round oak table, chairs, etc., fridge, stove, microwave, quantity of new & antique lumber & trim material. For more complete listing, log onto auctionsfind.com/doncolling

Auctioneer - Don Colling
(905) 877-0117

Region is stepping up its efforts in ongoing fight against West Nile

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That includes increasing the number of mosquito traps set up in the area from one to as many as six, as well as increased dipping of stagnant pools of water where mosquitoes are known to breed.

If larvae are found, a contractor hired by the Region will dip again for a particular mosquito species called Aedes.

If confirmed, it will be decided if the site can first be remediated. If not, it will be larvicided, a form of environmentally-safe pesticides used to treat standing water, as well as catch basins to kill mosquito eggs.

The aim is to kill the eggs before they mature into adult mosquitoes that may bite an infected bird and pass the virus on to humans. Larviciding, surveillance and monitoring aspects are all part of Halton's comprehensive West Nile battle plan that was approved by regional council in the spring. Halton was the first municipality in Ontario to larvicide its catch basins and standing water this year.

A springboard to creating the \$800,000 program was the fact the Region had the second highest number of human cases in Ontario with 59 last year. Toronto had the highest number.

None died in Halton, but across Canada, 20 died after contract-

ing it in 2002. Death is rare.

Meanwhile, Halton is considering establishing a registry to give residents with health problems, like asthma, heart problems or respiratory illnesses, the heads up if pesticides will be sprayed into the air to combat West Nile virus.

The registry — which would bank the names, postal codes and phone numbers of residents — would help the Region to personally contact them 48 hours before spraying a neighbourhood.

The Region has the same Erin Township-based company on retainer this year it had last year, at a cost of \$15,000 in the event fogging is needed.

"This is going an extra mile trying to make every effort to make sure they're notified personally," said Mr. Willmott. "We're awaiting (the Province's) guidance as to how we should proceed. We're expecting to get some advice shortly."

Creating such a registry won't require council approval, he noted.

Not many Ontario municipalities have a registry set up. Ottawa and York Region are the only ones so far to do so.

This kind of registry is not mandatory, but the Ministry of Health already requires that health units give written notice to communities that will be sprayed with insecticides.

Also, municipalities using larvicides must give residents 48 hours notice through mediums like newspaper ads and radio spots.

Another part of the Region's West Nile protection program — and an important one — is a blood study undertaken in Oakville.

But results of the provincially-funded study designed to show how widespread West Nile virus infection was last year have been delayed while positive samples are retested.

Researchers are concerned that other diseases — such as Dengue fever or St. Louis encephalitis, which belong to the same family of viruses as West Nile and cause many of the same symptoms — may be skewing the study's final results.

The study involved drawing blood in May and June from 1,505 people living in two postal code areas in Oakville. Travelling abroad is not uncommon in these areas.

The Province couldn't say how many have to be retested but said most of the samples showed a positive result of some kind.

Oakville had the highest rate of infection in North America in 2002.

Ministry of Health spokesperson Tanya Cholakov said the Province's timeline for the results to be ready has always been the end of July, and "we're still on schedule."

Halton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal had hoped to have the results in his hands by now, but said that the absence of human cases up until this point means the information would still be useful this year.

Jason Misner can be reached at jmisner@miltoncanadian-champion.com.



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