

Neighbouring residents contract West Nile

With human cases of West Nile virus recently showing up in neighbouring municipalities, Halton's top doctor is reminding local residents to guard themselves from mosquito bites.

The Halton Region Health Department reports that from now until mid to late September is the highest risk period for West Nile virus, meaning residents — particularly older adults and the elderly — should take extra care to avoid mosquito contact, which reduces the risk of becoming infected.

"Human infections have been reported in Mississauga and Toronto. Infections can happen here in Halton as well," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's medical officer of health. "Therefore, I would like to further emphasize the importance of protecting yourself against mosquito bites."

West Nile virus has now been detected in all four municipalities of Halton. It first showed up in Milton about two weeks ago when a dead crow found in the area of Ontario Street and Derry Road on a private property tested positive for the disease.

Most recently, a blue jay found in Georgetown tested positive for the virus. This is the first positive bird found in Halton Hills.

Results from mosquito trapping show there's more West Nile activity in Halton this year compared to the last two years.

The health department suggests residents protect themselves from mosquito bites by:

- Avoiding areas with high mosquito populations
- Taking extra precautions from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are more active
- Making sure all windows and doors in homes have screens that are in good condition

- Wearing light-coloured, loose-fitting, tightly-woven clothing, including long sleeves, pants, socks and a hat to cover exposed skin when outdoors from early evening to morning, or any time when in wooded areas

- Using a mosquito repellent approved by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency

The Region also suggests residents reduce mosquito breeding grounds around their homes by draining standing water, removing old tires, turning over items that may collect water, changing birdbath water weekly and keeping eavestroughs clear.

So far this year, 975 dead birds have been reported to the health department — 469 in Burlington, 325 in Oakville, 97 in Halton Hills and 84 in Milton.

Of those, five crows and two blue jays found in Burlington tested positive for West Nile, two crows and two blue jays in Oakville, one crow in Milton and one blue jay in Halton Hills.

Also, six mosquito pools in Burlington and nine in Oakville have tested positive for the virus.

West Nile virus has been detected in Halton for the last four years in the bird and mosquito population. While there've been no human cases of the disease in Halton for the past two years, 60 residents were diagnosed in 2002.

In 2003, a local study found that 80 per cent of people who had become infected with the virus had no symptoms. However, roughly 20 per cent of people infected developed a fever, headache, muscle aches and rash.

And, one per cent of those infected

became seriously ill with a neurological syndrome, which can include encephalitis (swelling of the brain), paralysis and difficulty with speech. The infection can be fatal in rare situations.

Maps showing the locations of where positive birds were found, as well as stand-


ing water sites and catch basins where larvicide has been applied, are available on the health department's Web site at www.region.halton.on.ca/health.

To report a dead bird or standing water or for more information about the virus, call the health department at (905) 825-6000.

Canadian Red Cross

FIRST AID

People who take first aid training reduce their personal injuries by up to 30%.



Schedule "A"

NOTICE OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE TRILLIUM BANQUET HALL CLASS ACTION

This notice may affect your rights. Please read carefully.

To Class Members who are:

All persons who attended at Trillium Banquet Hall between June 25, 2003 and June 29, 2003 and all persons who were secondarily infected with E.coli as a result of contact with a person who attended at Trillium Banquet Hall between June 25, 2003 and June 29, 2003, excluding the officers, directors, servants and agents of Trillium Banquet Hall Inc. and Brunel Food Services Inc..

And to Family Class Members who are:

The partner, spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent or sibling of a Class Member.

CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT APPROVAL ORDER

A class action was commenced in Ontario alleging that the Class Members were infected with E.coli as a result of their attendance at Trillium Banquet Hall between June 25, 2003 and June 29, 2003. A settlement was reached with Trillium Banquet Hall Inc. and Brunel Food Services Inc.. Trillium Banquet Hall Inc. and Brunel Food Services Inc. do not admit any wrongdoing or liability of their part. The settlement is a compromise of disputed claims.

The court in Ontario certified the action as a class proceeding and approved the settlement. This notice is a summary only.

THE SETTLEMENT

Class Members and Family Class Members will be paid in accordance with the following grid:

Person/Item	Symptoms of E. coli for up to 72 hrs.	Symptoms of E. coli for 73 hrs. to 15 days	Symptoms of E. coli for 16 days to 29 days	Symptoms of E. coli for 30 days to 60 days	Symptoms of E. coli for more than 60 days
Primarily Infected and Secondarily Infected Persons	\$500	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	to be assessed individually
All Family Class members	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	to be assessed individually
Out-of-pocket expenses for each Class Member and Family Class Member	to be assessed	to be assessed	to be assessed	to be assessed	to be assessed

Crawford Class Action Services was appointed as the Administrator to administer the settlement. Reva Devins was appointed as the Mediator/Arbitrator to decide any and every appeal from the decision of the Administrator.

Class Members will be required to advise the Administrator, under oath, of the length of his or her illness and will be paid in accordance with the grid above.

Each Class Member and Family Class Member must substantiate his or her claims for out-of-pocket expenses by providing the Administrator with some confirmatory evidence.

In order to be compensated, each Class Member and Family Class Member must file a claim with the Administrator on or before November 30, 2005. If you fail to file a claim with the Administrator on or before November 30, 2005, you will not be entitled to compensation.

Interest on amounts payable to the Class Members and Family Class Members will be paid at the rate of 5% per year from and after August 1, 2003.

There is \$1,000,000 of insurance available. If this amount is insufficient to pay all damages to the claimants, they shall be paid pro rata.

OPTING OUT

Any Class Member or Family Class Member who does not wish to participate in the settlement must opt out. A Class Member or Family Class Member who opts out will not be eligible for any of the benefits of the settlement. All Class Members and Family Class Members who do not opt out will be bound by the terms of the settlement. **Do not opt out if you wish to share in the benefits of the settlement.**

To opt out, a Class Member or Family Class Member must send a written notice, by prepaid mail, courier or fax to be received on or before October 15, 2005 to the Administrator at:

Crawford Class Action Services
101-515 Riverbend Dr.
Kitchener ON N2K 3S3
tel. (866) 373.3570
fax (519) 578.4016

RELEASE OF CLAIMS AND THE EFFECT ON OTHER PROCEEDINGS

A Class Member or Family Class Member who does not opt out of the class proceeding will not be able to bring or maintain a lawsuit or make any other claim against Trillium Banquet Hall Inc. and Brunel Food Services Inc. relating to the E.coli infection at Trillium Banquet Hall between June 25, 2003 and June 29, 2003. Any action that a Class Member who does not opt out has or may commence will be or will be deemed to be dismissed without costs.

CLASS COUNSEL FEES

As part of the settlement, the court awarded class counsel on account of their fees the amount of \$125,000 inclusive of disbursements and GST to be paid by Trillium Banquet Hall Inc. and Brunel Food Services Inc.. In addition, class counsel will be paid 12% of all amounts payable to the Class Members and Family Class Members, as the balance of their fees.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information about the settlement is available at the website www.trilliumecoli.ca

INTERPRETATION

This notice is a summary of some of the terms of the settlement. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this notice and the terms of the settlement, the settlement terms shall prevail.

This notice is approved by The Honourable Mr. Justice John R. Sproat, of the Superior Court of Justice for Ontario.

Any questions about the matters in this notice should not be directed to the court because its administrative structure is not designed to address this type of inquiry.

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