Halton Region's health department is reminding area residents to cover up and slap on bug repellant as the community enters the heart of West Nile virus (WNV) season.

"Although West Nile virus has not been in the forefront of infectious diseases so far this summer, everyone still needs to continue to take precautions," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton Region's medical officer of health, in a written release. "July, August and September are the months when we typically see mosquitoes test positive for West Nile virus."

To prevent the spread of mosquitoes carrying the virus, the Region is asking residents to eliminate or reduce areas of standing water, such as bird baths, old tires and children's toys, that act as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

## Take steps to minimize risk

For personal protection, the health department advises residents to avoid being outdoors between dusk and dawn, but when doing so to wear long-sleeved shirts and pants with tightly-woven fabric and to use a mosquito repellent with DEET. In shady, wooded areas, mosquitoes can be active all day and night.

Although Halton Region is deemed a high-risk territory for WNV, there were no reported human cases in the community in 2008. There were two human cases in 2007, but regional staff believe the individuals likely acquired the infection outside of Halton.

According to the Region, of those who become infected with WNV, 80 per cent will not have any symptoms but the rest could have fever, nausea, muscle aches, headache and rash.

In rare severe cases, people can develop encephalitis or meningitis, which can lead to brain damage and even death. The risk for serious illness when infected with WNV increases with age therefore elderly persons and older adults need to pay particular attention to protecting themselves, said the Region.

For more information, visit www.halton.ca/wnv.

# CORRECTION NOTICE

To our valued customers: We apologize for any inconvenience caused by an error in our flyer dated: July 17 - July 24.

TELUS Your Choice \$35 Smartphone Combo Plan. Please be advised that on page 6 there is an error in the rate plan advertised. This Smartphone Combo Plan should be \$45 not 35, and it includes 250 minutes, unlimited 9pm nights and weekends, and 500MB of data.





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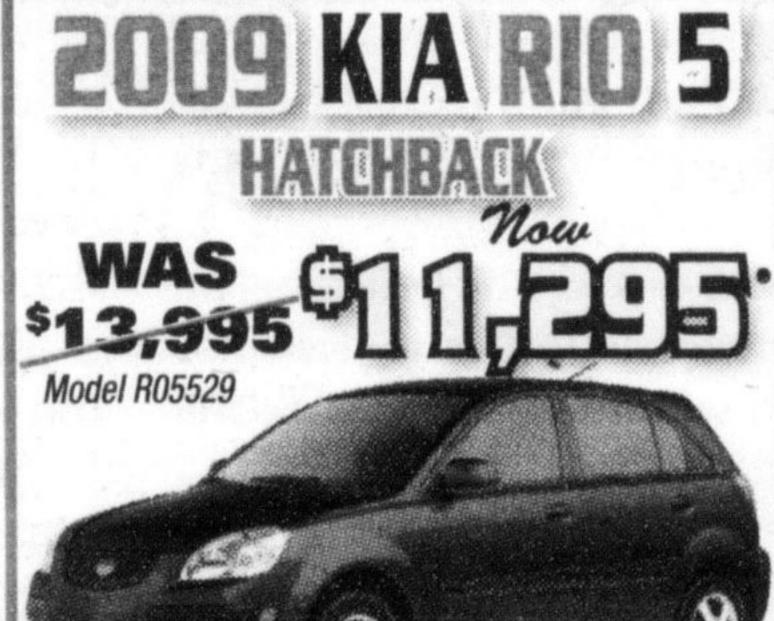
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