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West Nile progresses quickly in horses

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survive year-round.

Also, the stress of travel may compromise some animals' immune systems.

The fact that West Nile has spread into the equine community doesn't shock, Janet Barton of Devonshire Stables. "I'm concerned but not surprised," said Ms Barton.

Devonshire offers riding instruction from branches in Markham and Sharon. Ms Barton plans to have 28 horses vaccinated next spring.

West Nile is here to stay, stressed Ballantrae veterinarian Ralph Watt. But he had some good news: "It can't be transmitted from one horse to another."

In humans, the virus progresses slowly. But in horses it's fast-acting, said Dr. Innes.

Once respiratory difficulty, muscle tremors and difficulty standing occur, the animal is not expected to recover.

"We euthanize once the horse goes down," Dr. Innes said.

York Region's human population has not escaped West Nile. Two people tested positive

for the virus this year, said Mrs. Keates — a 59-year old Richmond Hill man and a 55-year old Markham woman.

A 31-year old woman who was visiting Thornhill also contracted West Nile, said Ms Keates. All three recovered at home.

The virus tends to closely follow the migratory patterns of birds.

Humans and other animals do not carry enough virus in their blood for it to be transmitted to other animals or humans, health officials stressed.



YORK RAPID TRANSIT PLAN YONGE STREET CORRIDOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITY

As one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada, York Region is facing a number of transportation challenges. A top priority of the Region is to ensure swift and effective action to improve the movement of people and goods. In response to these transportation challenges, the Region has initiated the York Rapid Transit Plan (YRTP) to facilitate the process of implementing a rapid transit network in York Region. The plan encompasses studies in two major transit corridors and two connecting links to Toronto: the Highway 7 Corridor, the Yonge Street Corridor, the Vaughan North-South Link and the Markham North-South Link.

To "Make the Right Connections!", the Yonge Street Corridor EA is examining rapid transit services between Steeles and 19th Avenues. The first steps in the EA process entailed a Needs and Justification Study and development of a Terms of Reference to define the scope of the subsequent Individual Environmental Assessment. These were completed over the past year and the Ministry of Environment review of the Terms of Reference is in its final stage. In preparation for the actual Environmental Assessment, the Region is providing an opportunity for public input to the development of alternatives alignments and facility designs.

The scope and success of this study depends very much on public input and participation. You are invited and encouraged to attend an upcoming Public Consultation Centre to express your views on the needs, issues, challenges and potential solutions for rapid transit in the Yonge Street Corridor. The first Public Consultation Centre will be held on **November 27th** at the following location:

Hillcrest Mall
9350 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill, Ontario
November 27th

Centerpoint Mall
6464 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
November 28th

York Region is collaborating with the City of Toronto, and is about to commence a Class EA for rapid transit between Steeles Ave. and the Finch Subway station.

To obtain further information on this study, please visit the "York Rapid Transit Plan (YRTP) Website" on the York Region home page: www.region.york.on.ca/yrtp. If you wish to have your name placed on our mailing list, or to direct questions and comments please contact:

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Come out... and help "Make the Right Connections!"



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