

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, August 8, 2011, Peterborough

West Nile Virus Found in Local Mosquitoes

Health Unit Advises Residents to Protect Themselves Against Mosquito Bites

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit is advising the public that mosquitoes in the City of Peterborough have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The mosquitoes were trapped August 2 and 3, 2011.

These are the first two positive mosquito pools found in the City of Peterborough this year. As of last week, 11 positive mosquito pools had been found in Ontario.

During the summer and early fall, mosquitoes are trapped and tested for WNV and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) every week throughout Peterborough City and County. Peterborough County-City Health Unit has not reported a positive mosquito pool since 2006.

There have been no human cases of WNV identified in Peterborough City or County. Most people who are bitten by an infected mosquito will not show any symptoms. In rare cases, there may be more serious symptoms including high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, confusion and tremors. Older adults are usually more affected than children. Individuals experiencing severe headache, fever, body ache, nausea, vomiting and rash, should consult a physician. Symptoms usually develop between two and 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Although the risk of becoming infected is low, prevention against bites is the best protection. Residents are strongly advised to use personal protective measures while outdoors to avoid mosquito bites. These measures include:

- using a Health Canada approved insect repellent containing DEET
- wearing light-coloured clothing and cover up when in areas where mosquitoes are present
- taking extra precautions, especially in early morning and early evening, when mosquitoes are most active
- remove standing water around your home and property

It is extremely important that residents continue to eliminate standing water on their properties which may serve as mosquito breeding sites.

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NEWS RELEASE

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For additional information on protection measures against West Nile virus such as reducing mosquito breeding sites, and the safe use of insect repellents, please consult the Health Unit's website at www.pcchu.ca .

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For further information, please contact:

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