



June 6th, 2007

For Immediate Release

West Nile Virus Activity

“West Nile Virus is here and it is here to stay.” states Dr. Humphreys, “In 2006, West Nile Virus (WNV) was found in every Health Unit in Ontario.”

Preventative measures are critical in our own community, as the virus has become a feature of summertime. Mosquitoes can breed in stagnant water found in small containers and unopened pools in four days. The best way to prevent mosquito infestation is to eliminate their breeding grounds. Therefore, the Peterborough County-City Health Unit urges all citizens to remove standing water because it provides the ideal breeding ground for the *Culex Pipiens* mosquito, the main transmitter of WNV.

The WNV program provides free interactive presentations to interested groups and organizations. The presentations provide up-to-date information on WNV, and focus on prevention and personal protection.

Lastly, the Health Unit is continuing its bird surveillance program. Citizens can report all dead crows and blue jays to our office at 743-1000 ext 340. These birds act as good indicators of West Nile Virus activity in the community.

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For additional information, contact Emily Ames, West Nile Virus Program Coordinator at 705.743.1000. ext 340.