



Board Report

Friday August 25, 2017



PROGRAM REPORT AUGUST 2017

101 17TH Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5

Phone: 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456

WEBSITE: www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Working with the Grey Bruce communities to protect and promote health

Table of Contents

Mosquito Trapping for West Nile Virus Surveillance	1
Grey Bruce Municipal Concussion Policy Toolkit	1

Mosquito Trapping for West Nile Virus Surveillance

Starting earlier this month, Grey Bruce Health Unit began mosquito trapping for West Nile Virus (WNV) surveillance.

WNV is primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Symptoms usually develop 2 to 14 days after receiving a bite from an infected mosquito. Approximately 80% of those infected with WNV do not show any symptoms. Of the 20% that do show symptoms, most experience mild illness. Less than 1% of those infected with WNV experience severe illness involving the central nervous system.

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has not conducted mosquito surveillance for WNV since 2012. However, due to changing climate conditions that can enhance the spread of the mosquito species that carry the virus, it was decided to resume the program. Traps consist of a light and carbon dioxide source that attracts mosquitos into a mesh enclosure. Trapped mosquitoes are sent to a contracted lab where their species is identified. Species known to carry WNV are further tested to determine if the virus is actually present.

This year's program will be modest with three traps, one each in Hanover, the Town of the Blue Mountains and Owen Sound. Next year, the number of traps will be expanded with locations selected in consultation with expert staff from Public Health Ontario. The program next year will also be geared toward surveillance for Eastern Equine Encephalitis, a potentially emergent mosquito-borne disease in Ontario.

Grey Bruce Municipal Concussion Policy Toolkit

Municipalities play a vital role in providing and supporting community sport and recreation opportunities for children and youth. Unfortunately, research shows that young athletes are at particular risk when it comes to concussions. Concussions represent 21% of treated injuries among students in Ontario (Ontario Ministry of Education, Healthy Schools Unit, 2016). It should also be noted that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport *Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund* requires municipalities have a concussion policy in place as a requirement to receive grant

funding. To support municipalities in developing and/or implementing a concussion policy, the Grey Bruce Health Unit created the *Municipal Concussion Policy Toolkit*.

In 2016, the Grey Bruce Health Unit undertook a survey of all local municipalities and Indigenous communities to assess the status of concussion policies. Results indicated a need for a toolkit that would provide protocols, reference tools and resources that municipalities could use with partners to create a safe sport and recreation culture. The toolkit aligns with the *Ontario Physical Education Safety Guidelines* for school boards which includes protocols to reduce the incidence and severity of concussions by supporting prevention, identification and proper management of suspected and/or diagnosed concussions. It is also consistent with the 2017 *Canadian Guideline on Concussion in Sport*.

Public Health will be working with municipalities and community partners to support the enhancement of concussion policy within each community. Endorsement of a municipal policy will support a more consistent approach to concussion prevention, identification and management among municipalities, schools and health care professionals.

