

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council
Subject	2025 West Nile Virus Control Program Update
Date	June 11, 2025
Ward	All
From	Dave Friary, Director of Operations
Executive Member Approval	Bala Araniyasundaran, General Manager Infrastructure and Growth Management
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide Members of General Committee with information regarding the status of the annual City of Barrie (City) West Nile Virus (WNV) Control Program for 2025. *Ontario Regulation 199/03, Control of West Nile Virus (WNV)* empowers the Medical Officer of Health from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) to determine if there is a need to reduce the risk of exposure to WNV and if so, to compel municipalities to take action. The Medical Officer of Health will notify a municipality of any required actions through a 'Notice to Larvicide'.

Background

The 'Notice to Larvicide' for the City of Barrie was issued on May 5, 2025, requiring that municipally-owned catch basins receive larvicide application during the summer months for 2025, commencing in mid June.

Municipally-owned catch basins located on private property will not be scheduled for larvicide application and will be managed on a request only basis by the landowner to the Stormwater & Technical Operations Branch. A consent form must be signed by the landowner prior to treatment.

The City currently has a Standing Agreement for Larviciding with G.D.G. Canada-Kersia Group (G.D.G.) (FIN2022-179P) and the required funds are included in the approved 2025 Business Plan (G/L 1278-670700). The Municipal/Provincial cost-sharing arrangement for expenses directly associated with the application of the larvicide will entail 30% of the cost borne by the City of Barrie and 70% covered by the SMDHU. G.D.G. is responsible for obtaining the required pesticide permit from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and will perform the larvicide application on behalf of the City with an approved treatment period from June 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025.

The SMDHU WNV Surveillance Program includes monitoring of, but not limited to, municipal catch basins, stormwater ponds and natural sites for mosquitos and to conduct adult trapping. The Surveillance Program is scheduled to commence in mid to late June and is performed by SMDHU staff on a weekly basis.

The *Culex pipiens/restuans* species of mosquitos typically breed in catch basins and are a major contributor to viral infections in birds. The larvicide, when applied to the catch basin sumps, will disrupt the mosquito's life cycle and adult mosquitos will not emerge. By reducing the adult Culex population, amplification of WNV is reduced and the risk of exposure to WNV in the human population is reduced.

The SMDHU will provide public awareness materials to the City of Barrie for distribution at several City facilities. Provincial regulation requires that public notification related to the larvicide application be provided which will be satisfied through detailed posting on the City web page, and on social media channels.

Next Steps

Technical & Stormwater Operations will coordinate with G.D.G. to ensure that the terms outlined in the pesticide permit and contract are adhered to, and that all program-related duties are completed as scheduled through field audits and follow-up measures.

City staff will also accompany SMDHU staff while conducting their WNV Surveillance Program to provide access to City infrastructure and ensure City health and safety protocols are followed.

The SMDHU is the lead agency for WNV control; all questions and concerns from the public should be directed to the SMDHU. A hyperlink will be established from the [City's website](#) to the [SMDHU website](#) to assist the public with access of information related to WNV.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Jake Reid at Jake.Reid@barrie.ca or extension 4918.

Appendix:

N/A

Memo Author:

Craig Morton, C.E.T., PMP
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File #:

N/A

Pending #:

N/A