



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

**FROM: J. THOMPSON, P. ENG., CMM III IP, PMP
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**NOTED: D. FRIARY, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH
MANAGEMENT DIVISION (ACTING)**

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: WEST NILE VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM – 2018

DATE: MAY 28, 2018

The purpose of this Memorandum is advise members of Council that the *Ontario Regulation 199/03, Control of West Nile Virus (WNV)* empowers the Medical Officer of Health to determine if action is required by a municipality to reduce the risk of exposure to WNV. The regulation also authorizes the Medical Officer of Health to notify a municipality of any action required and, a municipality shall comply with the requirements as set out in the notice.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Medical Officer of Health has issued a Notice to Larvicide, dated April 16th, 2018, to the City of Barrie (City) which requires the City to larvicide municipally owned catchbasins during the summer months of 2018. Larviciding of municipally owned catchbasins will be commencing late June.

The *Culex pipiens/restuans* species of mosquitos typically breed in catchbasins and are a major contributor to viral infections in birds. The larvicide, when applied to the catchbasin 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 City currently has a Standing Agreement for Larviciding with G.D.G. Canada Inc. (RFQ FIN 2017-144Q) and the required funds are included in the approved 2018 Business Plan (GL#01-22-6001-0000-3560). G.D.G. Canada Inc. will obtain the required pesticide permit from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and perform the larvicide application on behalf of the City.

The SMDHU has indicated that an established Municipal/Provincial cost sharing arrangement for expenses directly associated with the application of the larvicide will entail 25% of the cost borne by the City and 75% covered by the SMDHU.

The SMDHU WNV Surveillance Program includes monitoring of but not limited to: municipal catchbasins, stormwater ponds, natural sites and adult trapping. The Surveillance Program is scheduled to commence in mid to late June and is performed by SMDHU Staff.

The SMDHU will provide public awareness materials to the City for distribution at a number of 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 in the local newspaper. Municipally owned catchbasins located on private property will not be automatically scheduled for larvicide application. Municipally owned catchbasins on private property can be treated upon request of the land owner to the Environmental Operations Branch. A consent form must be signed by the land owner prior to treatment.



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The SMDHU is the lead agency for WNV control; all questions and concerns from the public should be directed to the SMDHU and a hyperlink will be established from the City of Barrie website to the SMDHU website to assist the public with access of information related to WNV.

If members of Council require further information, please contact Lenita Hywarren, Supervisor of Environmental Compliance at extension 5809.