



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release: July 23, 2008

Health Unit more targeted about tick submissions

For the past two years, the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit has been collecting data to assist in establishing areas of concern for Lyme disease. This study has been in collaboration with Health Canada with the participation of local veterinarians, physicians and the general public. After reviewing the data from the surveillance project we are confident in saying that the ticks responsible for transmitting Lyme disease are present in the areas of **Gananoque, Lansdowne and Brockville**. A small percentage of the ticks submitted for testing for Lyme disease have tested positive.

Starting today, in the areas mentioned above, the Health Unit will no longer be receiving and/or accepting tick submissions where the tick has been removed from an animal.

We will continue to accept ticks removed from humans and in fact encourage people to submit these ticks rather than discard them once removed from their body.

Lyme disease is a tick-borne disease that is spread to humans by the bite of an infected blacklegged tick. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic "bull's eye" skin rash. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with antibiotics.

For more information on Lyme disease and prevention methods visit our web site at <http://www.healthunit.org/hazards/documents/lyme.htm>.

-30-

Contact: Teresa Clow, CPHI(C), Public Health Inspector
613-345-5685