

# Board of Health

Monthly Report - Oct. 24, 2002

**Inside this issue:**

West Nile Virus Surveillance Local Activity	2
Education Partners Nominated for Award	2

## Medicine Clean Out Campaign - November 9-24, 2002

*Submitted by Rebecca Kavanagh, Public Health Nurse*

Misused medications are responsible for many unintentional injuries such as poisonings and falls. These occur primarily in childhood and in the elderly, but may include other age groups as well. These injuries can be easily prevented with proper knowledge and planning. For this reason, the Eastern Region Injury Network (ERIN) has chosen a community medicine clean out campaign to increase awareness that outdated medications, and medications no longer being used, may become a risk for injuries in the home and should be safely disposed of. ERIN is comprised of the six area health units in Eastern Ontario along with the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (Plan-it Safe), Ministry of Transportation, and the two District Health Councils that cover this area. Each health unit will be implementing a similar campaign during the month of November. That way the messages will be widespread and consistent across Eastern Ontario. The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit has chosen November 9 -24, 2002 to encourage the residents of the Tri-County to clean out their medicine cabinets and return their medications to one of the participating pharmacies for safe disposal. A list of these pharmacies can be found by calling our Health Action line at 1-800-660-5853. In early November, each physician's office will receive a poster outlining the campaign. We hope they will hang the poster in their waiting room as well as encourage their patients to participate. For more information about the campaign, please call Rebecca Kavanagh at 613-283-2740.



## United Counties Preschool Dental Screening Program - *Submitted by Penny White, Registered Dental Hygienist*

The Dental Program of the Health Unit received \$10,000 from the National Child Benefit Reinvestment Program last year for a Preschool Dental Screening Program in Leeds and Grenville Counties.

During the 1999-2000 school year, 8% of all Leeds, Grenville and Lanark children aged 4 and 5 who received a dental screening in elementary school had 2 or more teeth with large carious lesions (cavities).

The overall goal of the Preschool Dental Screening Program was to improve the dental health of preschool children (ages 0-4) by increasing parents' awareness of early childhood tooth decay and by providing dental screening to identify urgent dental conditions requiring treatment.

Dental screenings were provided at 30 daycare/ nursery schools, several preschool

registration events, and drop-in clinics throughout the United Counties.

Children identified as requiring dental treatment were referred to their family dentist and those families who could not afford the cost of dental treatment accessed the Children in Need Of Treatment Program (CINOT).

At all events and screenings, parents were personally given information regarding the cause and prevention of early childhood tooth decay.

A media campaign, that included several newspaper articles, radio and cable television interviews and advertisements announcing dental screening events, reached approximately 72,000 residents.

Prevention and early intervention still remains the best strategy for preventing dental decay and early tooth loss.



**CONTACT US:**  
We welcome your comments and suggestions for the Board Report at [board@healthunit.org](mailto:board@healthunit.org)

## West Nile Virus Surveillance- Local Activity

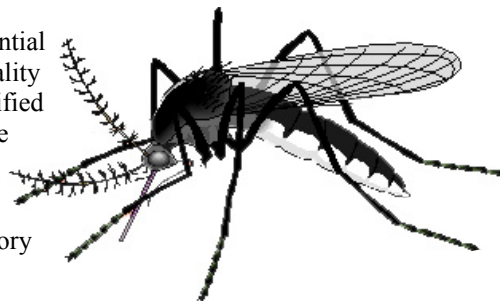
*Submitted by Henry Garcia, Director of Health Protection*

Staff of the health unit continued to conduct West Nile surveillance activity during the 2002 mosquito season. These activities included the following: mosquito trapping, speciation and submission to the Laboratory for WNV identification, enhanced human surveillance, assessment of dead bird reports and the continual identification of mosquito breed areas within the tri-county area.

In July of this year the first of 4 positive birds (all crows) was found positive for West Nile Virus in the Tri-county area. The locations of these dead birds were evenly distributed throughout the health unit area. Due to extensive workload at the Central Laboratory in Winnipeg, we were requested not to submit any further birds for analyses until their workload subsided. The rationale for this action was that any health unit where two or more positive birds were identified, it was assumed the finding of any subsequent dead birds could be presumed to be also positive for West Nile Virus.

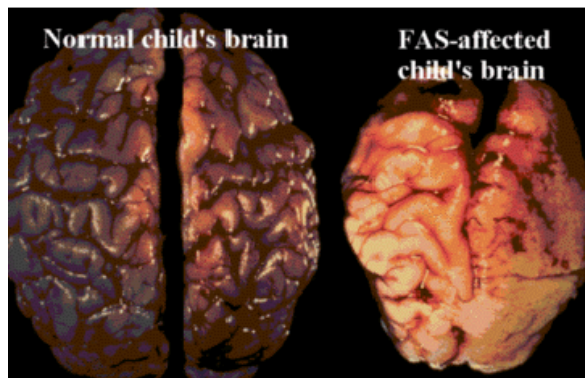
Also in July, all municipalities received update maps indicating actual or potential mosquito breeding areas within their respective municipalities. Each municipality was requested to voluntarily undertake some source reduction in certain identified mosquito breeding areas. As a result, some municipalities have pursued source reduction through re-grading of identified ditches, reducing areas where water can pond over extended periods of time or flushing of storm sewers etc.

To date, all the mosquitoes that have been sent from our district to the laboratory for West Nile Virus analysis have been negative.



## Education Partners Nominated for Award

*Submitted by Barb Guthrie, Public Health Nurse*



The creativity and initiative of the staff of one of the health unit's community partners has resulted in a new and innovative teaching resource about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. The resource is a comic book called "FAE, the Million Dollar Baby". The comic book, released in early September, has already received national attention for The Upper Canada District School Board and the Board's staff. The Board has been nominated for the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education's BRAVO! award.

Susan Shannon, a special education resource teacher with the central region of the Upper Canada District School Board, is the creator of "FAE, The Million Dollar Baby". Ms. Shannon is passionate about the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) and is the founder of a School Board committee called C.A.A.R.L.\*, which works on FASD issues. The health unit participates on C.A.A.R.L. and as well Ms. Shannon represents C.A.A.R.L. in support of Health Unit FASD initiatives.

David Sheridan, who produced the comic book's dramatic illustrations, is the Arts Program Leader for Thousand Islands Secondary School.

"FAE, the Million Dollar Baby" will be used in the schools along with FASD activity kits, also developed by Susan Shannon. Health unit staff will be distributing the comic to some health unit clients and it will be available in reception areas as well. The comic book format and fictionalized approach to the topic of FASD communicates the prevention message in a way that has wide appeal.

\* 'Committee for the Promotion of Awareness of Alcohol - Abuse on Resulting Lives'. The committee and the comic book are dedicated to the memory of Carl who was affected and lived with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.



