



Public Service Announcement

Date: August 24, 2005

City of Prince Albert, Community Services Dept. 1084 Central Ave. Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 7P3

CITY HALL OFFICE 953-4800
MARGO FOURNIER CENTER 953-4816
AQUATICS INFORMATION 953-4816

ARTS CENTRE/PLAYGROUNDS 953-4811
ART HAUSER CENTRE 953-4848
ARENAS & SPORTSFIELDS 953-4848

West Nile Virus found in Prince Albert

Every year the City of Prince Albert and Saskatchewan Health advises the general public if they should discover any dead corvids (crows, magpies, bluejays, ravens, which are particularly sensitive to West Nile Virus and have high death rates) that they contact the City of Prince Albert for proper disposal. Collection and testing of these birds, which began in May of 2005, provides the best warning signal that West Nile is active in the area.

On August 10 a crow was submitted that was tested for West Nile Virus and the testing results identified that the specific crow tested positive for West Nile Virus.

The City of Prince Albert wishes to advise the public that the City will no longer be submitting samples for the testing of West Nile Virus for the remainder of the 2005 season.

The public should follow the necessary procedure in disposing of corvids:

- 1) Have these supplies ready prior to picking up the dead bird:
 - o Shovel
 - o Gloves (heavy-duty leak-proof rubber)
 - o 2 garbage / heavy plastic bags. Have one bag opened
- 2) Use a shovel to pick up the dead bird and place it in double garbage bags being careful not to puncture the garbage bags. If you can bury the bird close by, you can just carry it over in the shovel without putting it in bags.
- 3) Alternately you could carefully pick the bird up using heavy-duty leak-proof rubber gloves. If gloves are not available for the handling of the carcass, several layers of leak-proof plastic bags may be used as a glove. Grasp the body of bird (being careful not to grasp the claws or beak) with your hand protected by the two layers of leak-proof plastic bags and then turn the bags inside-out over the bird so it ends up inside the bags, with your hand on the outside. Handle the bird so that the beak or claws do not puncture the bag, gloves or your skin.
- 4) The plastic bags containing the bird should be closed tightly.
- 5) Place the bagged bird in a garbage can to be taken to the sanitary landfill (dump). Do not dispose of it in such a manner that it will be handled by other people or exposed to other wildlife. In areas with no landfill, birds should be buried deep enough so as not to be disturbed by wild animals.
- 6) If your gloves are the re-usable type, wash your gloved hands with soap and water before taking them off. Then wash your hands with soap and water. If a shovel is used wash the shovel with warm soapy water and expose to sunlight.