



Greater Moncton
Pest Control Commission

Reducing the MOSQUITO POPULATION in Greater Moncton

Who We Are

The Greater Moncton Pest Control Commission is **responsible for reducing the nuisance mosquito population within the Greater Moncton Area.** The Commission's funding is provided by the municipalities of Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview, as well as the Province of New Brunswick.

Mosquito control requires the efforts of both private citizens and the public sector to deal with breeding areas outside of private control. The salt marshes of the Petitcodiac River are an ideal breeding habitat for mosquitoes, and careful monitoring and control is needed to reduce the mosquito population.

What We Do

The Commission follows an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) model. A biological larvicide (Bti), which specifically targets and kills mosquitoes and some other biting flies, is applied in standing pools of water containing mosquito larvae. Using this model, mosquito control is only possible during the larval stage. Continuous monitoring, before and after these applications, allows staff to respond to each site with proper priority.

We monitor ecological indicators such as marsh bird nesting activity and muskrat populations, to evaluate any changes in their environment.

Technical information regarding the use of insecticides in mosquito control can be found at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/mosquito/mosquito-e.html

Mosquito Facts

- 32 mosquito species have been identified in the Moncton area, and over 3300 worldwide.
- A single female can lay more than 200 eggs at a time, which can survive for more than five years before hatching.
- All mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle.
- Not all species bite humans, and only the female bites. The female needs the blood as a protein source to produce her eggs.
- Mosquitoes feed on nectar from small flowers and grasses. Some mosquito species prefer to bite birds, others horses, and some will even bite frogs and turtles.
- Mosquitoes can fly considerable distances.
- Mosquitoes do not breed in grasses or shrubs, although as adults they will often rest in these areas during the day.

Mosquito Life Cycle

Female mosquitoes need blood in order to produce viable eggs. A female can lay multiple batches of eggs but a new blood meal is required for each batch. On the positive side, most mosquitoes feed on nectar and fruit juices and as such, they help pollinate grasses and some flowering plants.

Mosquitoes need damp conditions to complete their life cycle. Females will lay their eggs in or near water sources where they will later hatch as larvae. Mosquito larvae are worm-like organisms that move by thrashing their abdomen. They are totally dependant on water for their survival. Generally, larvae feed on microorganisms and organic material in the water.

The maturing rate of larvae depends on water temperature and the mosquito species. In four to twenty-one days, the mature larvae will enter a pupal stage, where feeding ceases. After two to eight days, the adult mosquito emerges.

What Can You Do?

The Greater Moncton Pest Control Commission encourages residents of the tri-community area to control mosquitoes in their neighbourhood. Home-owners frequently, though inadvertently, breed mosquitoes in their own backyards. It may surprise you just how little water is required to breed hundreds of mosquitoes!

SOME BREEDING SITES YOU MAY NOT HAVE THOUGHT OF:

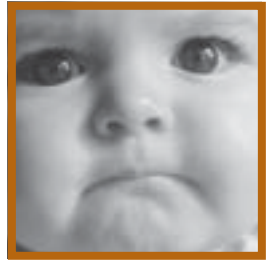
- ✓ rain gutters
- ✓ stagnant swimming pools and ornamental ponds
- ✓ tires, flowerpots, bird baths
- ✓ garbage and recycling containers
- ✓ tarps, tree holes
- ✓ any standing water

Tips to Avoid Mosquito Bites

- Avoid areas of high mosquito infestation.
- Avoid unnecessary outdoor activities at **dawn** or **dusk**; this is when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long pants, long-sleeve shirts and a hat when outdoors.
- Restrict the outdoor play of children if mosquitoes are present.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET. Use a DEET concentration of less than 10% for toddlers. Consult your physician before applying DEET to young children.

The **very young**, the **elderly** and persons with **depressed immune systems** are at

the highest risk of acquiring disease from mosquito bites



West Nile Virus

The Greater Moncton Pest Control Commission is participating closely with the Province of New Brunswick in surveillance for West Nile Virus. Our monitors document any abnormal bird activity and submit specimens for viral testing.

Please Contact

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