



## MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

With the return of warmer weather and heavy rain conditions in the past few weeks, residents of Altona are currently experiencing an increase of mosquitos. The Town of Altona has already received inquiries about its intention to begin controlling the adult mosquito population through ground-based ultra-low volume spraying (i.e., fogging).

The good news is that the Town of Altona has already begun controlling the adult mosquito population through other measures. The long-term goal of the Town's Mosquito Control Program is to ultimately reduce the necessity for fogging through the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies including:

1. Source Reduction – reducing standing water and other mosquito breeding sites
2. Larval Mosquito Surveillance and Control – larviciding
3. Public Awareness – source reduction, larviciding and personal protection
4. Adult Mosquito Surveillance and Control – fogging
5. Program Evaluation – monitoring and evaluating treatment efforts

While the Town's initial larviciding efforts within Town limits showed positive results, recent weather conditions have provided ample breeding sites in the surrounding areas. While the Town will continue to reduce breeding sites within Town limits, residents are encouraged to check gutters, planters, bird baths, ponds and any other place on property where water can pool. All standing water should be eliminated or can be treated with larvicide products that are available at your local home and garden store.

The Town of Altona will coordinate fogging with the main emphasis directed at maintaining nuisance mosquito populations at a tolerable level throughout the Town. The current pesticides available for fogging are not "target-specific" and predatory and non-threatening insects will be affected by its application. Fogging therefore is considered the "last line of defense" in any mosquito control program. The Town of Altona's pesticide use permit, approved by Manitoba Sustainable Development (formerly known as Conservation and Water Stewardship), establishes the guidelines for initiating and stopping the fogging program. As a result, the Town of Altona must consider analysis of several factors and conditions before undertaking any fogging including: soil conditions, precipitation, temperature, larval development, trap counts and the probability of adult mosquito emerging.

The Town of Altona must provide 24 hours' notice to the community of its intent to conduct fogging. Public notices are advertised through radio broadcast announcements on CFAM 950, Country 88 and The Eagle 93.5. Residents should also look for updates and information on the Town of Altona website ([www.altona.ca](http://www.altona.ca)) and the news liner on the Pembina Valley Online website ([www.pembinavalleyonline.com](http://www.pembinavalleyonline.com)). The Town of Altona will post signs at high traffic areas throughout Altona on the day of fogging to inform as many residents as possible of its intent to conduct mosquito fogging.

Dan Gagné  
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Town of Altona

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