

Greater Moncton Pest Control Commission

Interim Program Report – September 14, 2006

Program Discussion

The Annual mosquito control program has been concluded for the 2006 season as of September 1st. The GMPCC depends on students to staff its program and therefore the program stops just prior to the Labour Day weekend.

Mosquito populations increased in all three communities until June 23rd. Numbers started to drop in Moncton and Riverview while they continued to rise in Dieppe until July 14th where they then dropped dramatically and then all three communities dropped together. Testing is being carried out on the species most abundant in Dieppe but based on anecdotal evidence; the majority may have been non-human biters as the nuisance level did not seem to be high. Numbers started to rise again on August 11th which coincided with the normal emergence of salt marsh mosquitoes that have a reputation for being very aggressive and active at all points of the day or night. By September 12th, trap counts were very low as the Greater Moncton area had experienced two nights of frost. Monitoring of mosquito populations will continue until the end of September.

Larvicide use rose in 2006 by 58% over what was required in 2005. The total larvicide used in 2005 had been considered to be the most larvicide used in the program at that point. Two characteristics of the weather this year that contributed to the increase are the early spring that we experienced, as well as the above normal precipitation levels in June. The budget for 2007 will be adjusted in order to provide for the additional larvicide that we need.

Emphasis was placed on providing residents of Greater Moncton with information on our program. This was accomplished by participating in the Kiwanis Lifestyles Show, school tours in Moncton during Public Works week and Town of Riverview, Canada Day celebrations. An information booth was set up in the Dieppe market as well in early August.

The annual bird nesting survey has been completed and the draft report has been prepared. Other supplementary programs completed this year include a drainage study on the Petitcodiac River upstream of the Causeway, a stream survey on Ogilvy Brook and a continuation of the catch basin survey. All report drafts have been prepared and will be included in the 2006 Annual Report.

Program Statistics

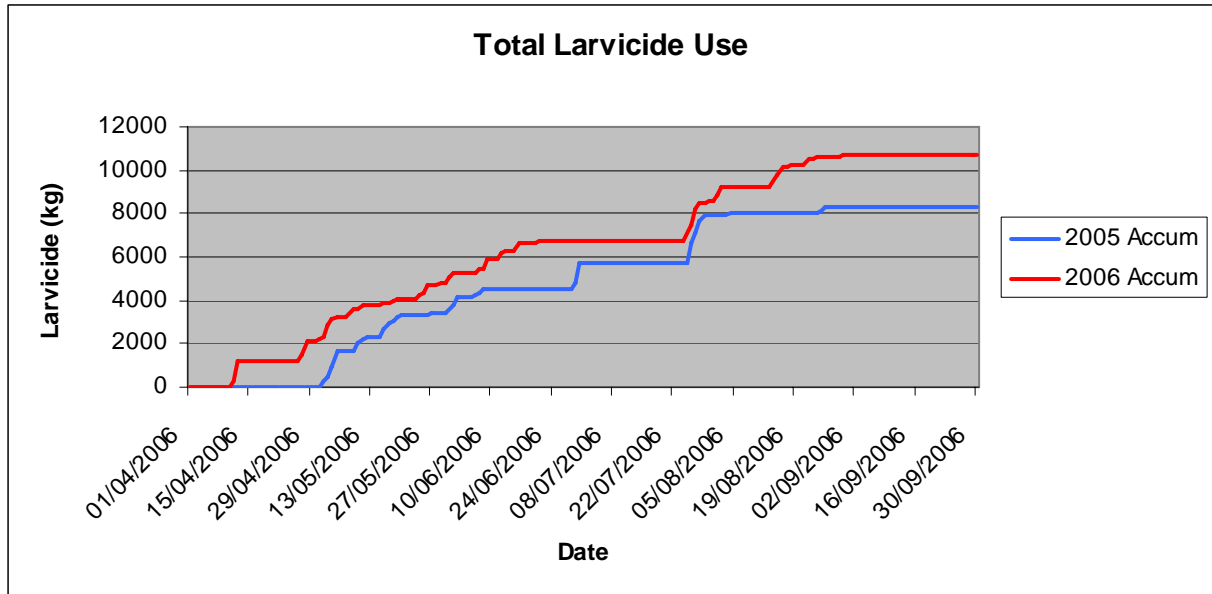


Figure 1 - This chart reveals that despite an early start, the initial larvicide use pattern was similar to 2005. Two other points in the season where increased amounts of larvicide were required to respond to rain events were in June and August.

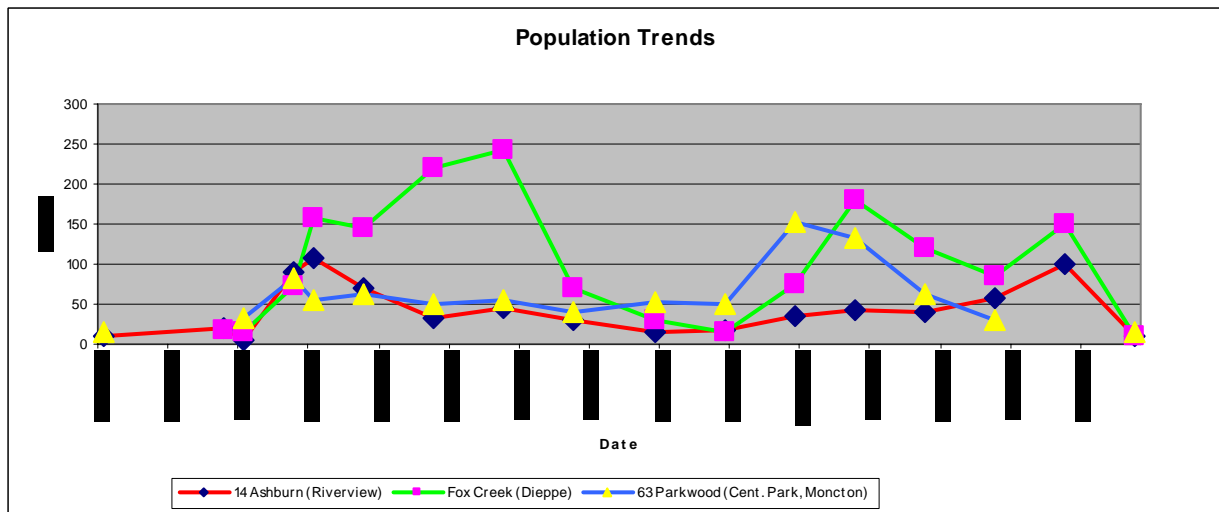


Figure 2 - Early in the season, mosquito populations were relatively consistent across sites in Greater Moncton. Following a period of above normal rainfall in June, populations rose but disproportionately in Dieppe. Anecdotal evidence does not match trap counts in Dieppe. It is possible that many of these mosquitoes are non-human biters. Trap counts dropped and then rose again in August to match the breeding cycles of the salt marsh mosquitoes. The trap in Riverview was located in a residential yard while the other two traps were in wooded areas.

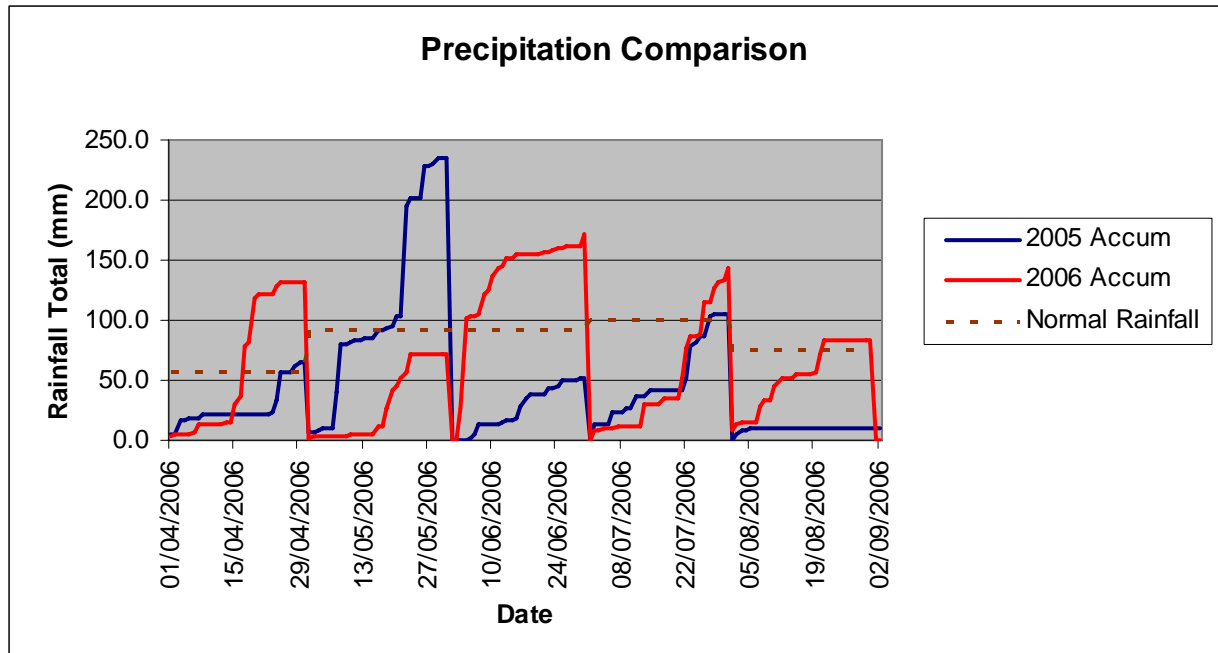


Figure 3 - The above normal rainfall for April was followed by below normal levels for May. This allowed adequate mosquito control to be established. We received significant rainfall early in June which reestablished breeding areas and placed extra demand on larvicide requirements. Rainfall was above normal for the rest of the summer.

Conclusion

Staff have risen to the challenge of mosquito control this year. Despite challenges presented to us, we have been able to establish comfort levels that have exceeded recent years.

Should there be any questions regarding the program, please feel free to contact Jeff Scott, Assistant General Director of the GMPCC at 859-2605 or email at jeff.scott@moncton.ca.