

June 2015

## Points of Interest...

- The 3rd annual *Blue Water Sturgeon Festival* was a huge success with 4,000 people attending. Highlights included three Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruises, a Walpole Island opening drum ceremony, 5k race, Chalk-the-Walk Sturgeon mural, Great Lakes exhibits, workshops, and a live sturgeon touch tank. During the Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruises guests were able to watch lake sturgeon swimming on the bottom of the St. Clair River via live video. Sturgeons have become a spotlight species for the restoration work being done in the St. Clair River. The Health Department's Environmental Health Educator received the following accolades from a longtime biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, "Overall I would rate this event as the best outreach activity that I have ever been involved with in my 28 years of working with the DNR. We look forward to participating again next year".

- Dr. Mercatante has been published in the **Journal of Primary Prevention: *Estimated Human and Economic Burden of Four Major Adult Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the United States, 2013*** John M. McLaughlin, Justin J. McGinnis, Litjen Tan, Annette Mercatante, Joseph Fortuna. Low uptake of routinely recommended adult immunizations is a public health concern. Using data from peer-reviewed literature, government disease-surveillance programs, and the US Census, a customizable model was developed to estimate human and economic burden caused by four major adult vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) in 2013 in the United States and for each individual state. Sensitivity analyses simulated the impact of various epidemiological scenarios on the total estimated economic burden. Estimated US annual cost for the four adult VPDs was \$26.5 billion (B) among adults aged 50 years and older, \$15.3B (58%) of which was attributable to those 65 and older. Among adults 50 and older, influenza, pneumococcal disease, herpes zoster, and pertussis made up \$16.0B (60%), \$5.1B (19%), \$5.0B (19%), and \$0.4B (2%) of the cost, respectively. Among those 65 and older, they made up \$8.3B (54%), \$3.8B (25%), \$3.0B (20%), and 0.2B (1%) of the cost, respectively. Most (80–85%) pneumococcal costs stemmed from non bacteremic pneumococcal pneumonia (NPP). Cost attributable to adult VPD in the US is substantial. Broadening adult immunization efforts beyond influenza only may help reduce the economic burden of adult VPD, and a pneumococcal vaccination effort, primarily focused on reducing NPP, may constitute a logical starting place. Sensitivity analyses revealed that a pandemic influenza season or change in size of the US elderly population could increase these costs dramatically.

- Beat the rush! Get your school-aged children vaccinated over the summer. Any friends or family in need of vaccinations for the 2015-16 school year are encouraged to call for appointments. Vaccinations are available at Teen Health Center (810-987-1311) or the Preventive Health and Immunizations department (810-987-5729). Those entering Kindergarten; 7th grade; or changing school districts are standard times when vaccines are needed. Contact the Health Department or your family physician to determine what vaccinations are recommended.

- Environmental Health staff participated in a meeting convened by Marysville officials regarding the potential implosion of the DTE power plant. Also in attendance were representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, SCC Marine Division, DEQ and First Nation. The demolition company would like to implode the remaining building and smokestacks as soon as possible. They are stating it is a much safer process for their employees and it allows for the property to be developed much sooner. The DEQ officials believe that any implosion, if allowed, will not occur for at least 3-4 months. The DEQ is meeting with company officials to attempt to approve a consent agreement regarding contaminant removal and eventual implosion. Most likely, this will consist of requiring a third party to certify that the building is free of contaminants before an implosion could occur. In addition, the DEQ will list further conditions that must be met prior to an implosion (other required approvals, fugitive dust control measures, wind direction and speed limitations, official notices, and river access restrictions).