

# AIDS and rabies on the rise in region

Two communicable diseases that became more prevalent in Halton from 1989 to 1990 were rabies and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), according to a Regional Health Department report scheduled to go before Halton Council today (Wednesday).

While there have never been any reported cases of Halton residents being afflicted with rabies, the number of rabies' vaccines administered to Halton residents increased by nine between 1989 and 1990 to a total of 49, indicates the report.

In the case of AIDS, there were 35 reported incidences in 1990 up from 18 in 1989.

According to Environmental Health Supervisor for Communicable Diseases, David Stronach any Halton resident bitten by an animal that cannot be found is vaccinated.

In 1990, 12 Halton Hills residents received the painful rabies vaccine, said Mr. Stronach. Comparatively 24 Burlington residents had to be issued the vaccine during the same year, he said.

Mr. Stronach justifies the difference in the issuance of rabies vaccines between Halton Hills and Burlington to local residents being more knowledgeable on how to avoid contracting the disease. Since Halton Hills has a relatively large rural population compared to Burlington the residents of Halton Hills more frequently deal with the disease, he said.

Mr. Stronach said rabies originated with the fox population. Rabies is cyclical and tends to go from a higher to a lower incidence in three-to-five year cycles corresponding to the birth rate of foxes, he said.

Mr. Stronach explained for three-to-five years the fox population increases rapidly and then a large number of the population dies off. In turn, the

rabies cycle enters a downswing.

The rabies cycle is now on the upswing, he said. As proof, Mr. Stronach points out that the number of foxes in Halton afflicted with rabies increased from 11 to 19 between 1989 and 1990.

Aside from highlighting the incidence of rabies in Halton, the report also provides statistics on

the incidence of AIDS in the region. From 1989 to 1990 the percentage increase in reported AIDS cases was just under 100 percent.

According to Halton's AIDS Project Coordinator Janice Benson, the increase can be attributed to several reasons including a greater willingness by people to be tested for AIDS, and

a better system of keeping track of reported cases.

Ms. Benson points out the number of homosexuals reported with AIDS decreased between 1989 and 1990 while the number of women and I.V. needle users afflicted with AIDS increased.

"AIDS is still not problem among Halton's teenage population," said Ms. Benson.

The Region's Healthy Relationships Campaign on how to avoid contracting AIDS is aimed primarily at young people, she said.

The campaign focuses on AIDS education and AIDS awareness and is carried out in conjunction with the Halton Public and Catholic School Boards, said Ms. Benson.

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## Hall board meeting

By BETTY SOJKA

Many thanks to Jim Sanderson's Haulage and Excavating for sponsoring the May Monthly Newsletter. Mailed out last week, residents should now be in receipt of this edition.

## Ballinafad News

The Hall Board held their monthly meeting on May 27th. Several financial statements were reviewed. It was noted that the Euchres held earlier in the spring were profitable; and would be held again starting in the fall. The big topic of the evening was basement renovations. A step by step plan was outlined on how to proceed with them. Funds have been allotted by Erin Township for this project. It is hoped that work may begin later this month. Erin Tsp. Councillor Doris Topolek contributed some very good input during the renovation discussions.

The Jim Dandies held on to a lead in the league by winning both their games last week. The biggest challenge came with the game against the Hillsburg Panthers. Each team played extremely well, never giving an inch until the Panthers experienced a bad inning. Here a lead was established to make the final score 6-4 for the Jim Dandies. Kathy Martin with a lovely homerun, was returned to 2nd base on a technicality when an outfielder had difficulty in the field. Elaine Bowman was another contributor to the winning score, with her strong hitting.

The Women's Institute have a field trip scheduled this week in place of their regular meeting. More news to follow next week.