

Rabies outbreak strikes this part of the county

by
MARK BOURRIE
Rabies has broken out

among wild animals on
the south and west side
of Midland. Animal

control officer Pete Bidan says it's one of the worst outbreaks in the area in years. The areas here King Street south, Highway 12 and the Drive-In theatre have been the hardest hit.

creases because of population increases of foxes and skunks. "Rabies will kill off many of the animals, and the rest become immune to the disease. The animals start to make a comeback and rabies increases to bring their numbers down again," said Bidan.

"Three weeks ago Monday, I came to work and found a fox wandering round acting strange. I shot it and an hour and a half later I got a call from Wyebridge Machine. A skunk was wandering around there and it turned out to have rabies," said Daniels. Daniels said he saw a rabid fox Saturday near his shop. He said he called the police, but shot the animal before the police arrived because the fox was heading toward an area where children play. Two other foxes were shot at Beaman's gravel pit on Highway 12. Bidan said the

problem shouldn't frighten people as long as they make sure their pet has had shots. He said people should also watch for animals that act strangely. "Animals dragging their hindquarters or doing anything else strange should be avoided. If someone sees an animal that looks strange, they should call Huronia Animal Control or any other proper authority. "Dogs that catch rabies usually don't turn vicious but cats and horses will," said Bidan. A dog that is exposed to a rabid animal runs

little risk of contracting the disease if it has had a vaccination. However, the dog will likely be quarantined on the owner's property. Dave Tennant, a building contractor who lives two miles west of Midland, had to undergo a painful series of shots last fall after his dog killed a rabid animal. The dog had to be quarantined, even though it had shots. The dog later proved to be unaffected. Bidan said residents with questions about rabies should call the federal Ministry of Agriculture at 1-726-0161.



Job creation the issue: Lewis

Doug Lewis said last Friday his strategy for his re-election as Simcoe North's MP is to canvas as hard as possible and meet as many people as possible. Job creation is the issue, the Progressive Conservative candidate says.

Asked about Liberal candidate Alan Martin's campaign theme that the people of Simcoe North want a change in representation in Ottawa, Lewis said, "I know what I hear from people. He has his version. I am sure that we both have our version of what we hear."

"People are fed up with an 11 and 12 per cent jobless rate, and high interest rates."

Asked if election of a Progressive Conservative government would eliminate high unemployment and high interest rates, Lewis answered, "You know who has been in charge of the store for the last 11 to 12 years." Senator Keith Davey is still pulling strings, and John Roberts is still the cabinet minister in charge of handling unemployment, Lewis said.

"It's the same old gang who sold gasoline for 18 cents a gallon less than I did last time (in the 1980 federal election) then raised it to 91 cents a gallon. They can't fool the people."

Lewis was in Victoria Harbour last Friday, with Simcoe East MPP Allan McLean, to take part in the village's Bicentennial celebration.

Simcoe County is notorious for its rabies problems. The county often has the highest reported incidence of rabies in the country, partly because of its large number of wild animals and family pets, many of which belong to visitors.

Bidan said the outbreak is part of a cycle. Every five years, the number of cases in-

Bidan said foxes are usually the major carriers of rabies, but this year the worst carriers are skunks.

John Daniels, who owns a welding shop on King Street south, says, he has shot several animals that were later proven to be rabid.

Reason for administrator questioned

Residents of Victoria Harbour are being asked to sign a petition which asks why the village needs an administrator with a salary of \$25,000.

Kathleen Trayling, who said she works in Toronto and owns property in the village, said last Friday she and Martha Lock of Victoria Harbour are circulating the petition, with the intent of taking it to the Aug. 13 village council meeting.

Half of the village has been covered and 170 people have signed, Trayling said.

Doug Jackson was appointed village administrator by the village council last month. Jackson resigned as reeve of the village to apply for the job. He was one of four applicants who were interviewed. Jackson resigned as reeve last June 30, after six years as reeve.

The council created the position of administrator after the village's deputy-clerk resigned to work for neighbouring Port McNicoll.

The petition being circulated reads as follows:

"We the undersigned would like to know why a village the size of Victoria Harbour requires the creation of a new position of administrator, at a cost of \$25,000 annually plus."

"Why does this village, with a population of 1,200, require such a large staff in comparison to a town such as Midland, Penetang, Coldwater, et cetera?"

"(1,200 population doesn't mean all tax-

payers, there could be three or four or more to a family. This does not leave too many property taxpayers.)"

"We feel this is going to cause an unbearable burden on the taxpayers of Victoria Harbour and one that is not required."

"If such a large staff is required, why do we have to have a reeve and a council?"

"Remember Victoria Harbour is just a village not a town and we are in

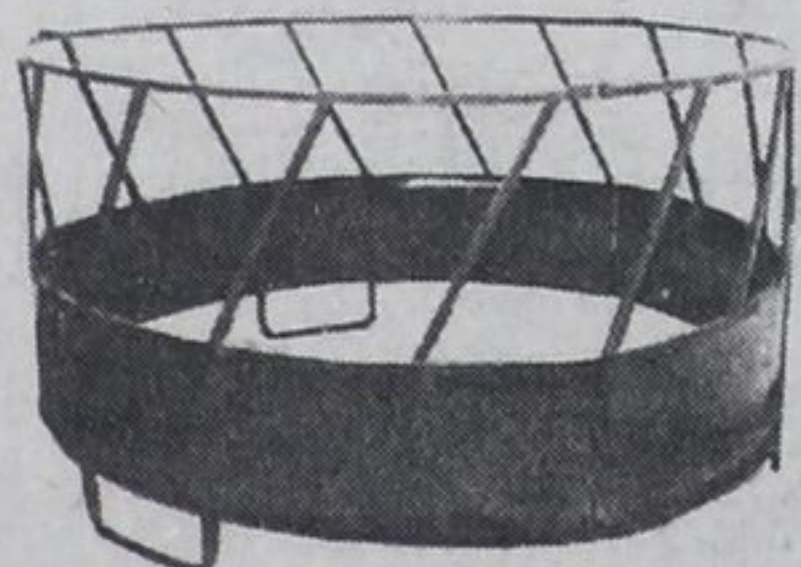
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