

Rabies on the rise in Simcoe

Rabies do not somehow fit into the lifestyle of suburbia 1986, nor do they seem like the type of thing that we expect to hear people talk about on the street. But, the number of reported rabie cases in

Simcoe County has increased over last year, by a large percentage, and the number of people concerned with the problem is growing. In 1985, the Midland District Health Unit tested

186 cases of rabies positive. Already this year, over 220 cases have been tested positive in the county, according to senior inspector of the Midland District Health Unit, Don Morrow. Also, the number of vac-

cines performed have nearly doubled this year compared to last year. In 1985, 125 vaccines were performed in Simcoe County. To date, this year, over 200 have taken place. According to Jane Nac-

zynski of the Ministry of Natural Resources, animals are becoming "more and more urbanized," and making their homes in places as diverse as sewers, ravines, cemeteries and under buildings.

"As they come into the city, so do rabies move with them and the risk of rabies to humans increases."

About 2,000 Ontarians are treated for rabies each year and over \$20 million goes into the treatment, vaccination and research of the disease.

Although rabies is most commonly associated with dogs, it has been found that skunks, red foxes and raccoons are the breeds that pose the highest rabies risk. Although skunks are reported as the most important rabies carrier in urban areas, such as Toronto where last year, almost 105 skunks were diagnosed as being rabid, foxes are the more important carriers in rural areas.

Bats have also been diagnosed as highly potential rabies carriers all over Canada.

Dr. Ben Van Toledo, of the Midland Veterinary Clinic on Young St. claims that the number of vaccines performed at his establishment have increased by 20 per cent over

last year. He went on to say that this year holds the record for the number of vaccines performed.

He said rabid foxes are mostly responsible for the high number of cattle with rabies. Although he could not pinpoint which animal he feels carries the most number of rabies, he recalls vaccinating cattle, from fox bites, more than any other species.

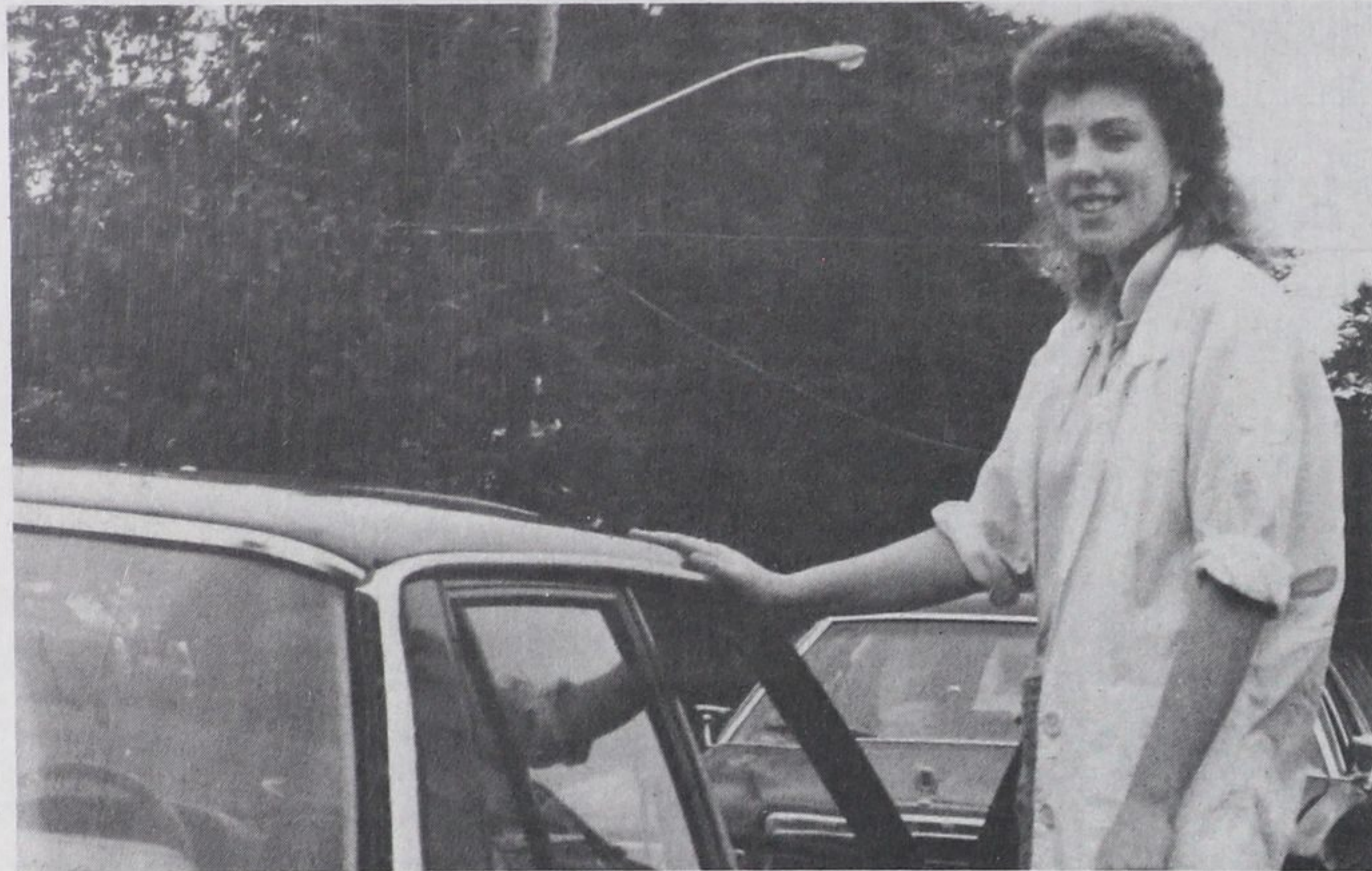
Since the 1960's, the Ministry of Natural Resources has been studying ways and means of controlling rabies.

Recent studies have focused on the technology to control rabies.

During the next year, the Ministry will be involved in four major studies as a result of the rise in rabies.

A team of rabies specialists will capture twenty skunks in the Scarborough area and test them for life patterns. They will monitor these skunks as to where they live and be vaccinated before they are released. The other three studies will involve monitoring raccoons and foxes.

Foxes which are major carriers of rabies in the rural areas are reported as having a high number of rabies in 1983. 735 cases of rabies were reported in that year.



Off to Indiana

Belynda Cleland has been chosen to represent Canada at the National Junior Achievement Conference held at Indiana University, Indiana. She is one of only two

other Junior Achievers in the country to be picked. There are over 9,000 Junior Achievers in Canada.

Area girl to represent Canada

An area girl stands well above the crowd when it comes to business, and Junior Achievement of Canada knows it.

Belynda Cleland, of Port McNicoll has been chosen, with two others, to represent Canada at the National Junior Achievement Conference (NAJAC) in Bloomington, Indiana.

Cleland is one of three Canadian Junior Achievers, picked to attend the conference at Indiana University, being held this week, out of almost 9,000 Junior Achievement

delegates across the country. As can be seen by her accomplishments in the local chapter of JA, Cleland is more than the right choice.

The Port resident has been a five-year achiever at JA, four of which she spent as vice-president of marketing. The past year Cleland has held the position of President of Descal Enterprises at Ernst Leitz of Canada.

She is an honor student at Midland Secondary School and is dubbed by others as responsible and

friendly. In September she will attend Wilfrid Laurier University for business administration.

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