

Wage rabies war

GOODWOOD — The Ministry of Natural Resources is waging a war against rabies in southern Ontario.

"We're trying to develop ways to control rabies in foxes and skunks," explained Charles MacInnes, a wildlife biologist with the Ministry. "Our approach is to develop a program so we can get vaccine into wild animals."

Such projects are essential because this part of the province is "the rabies capital of North America," he told those attending a rabies information forum in Goodwood, Monday evening.

He described it as "one of the largest and one of the best programs of control in the world."

Mr. MacInnes, who lives on Conc. 2, Uxbridge Twp., said outbreaks occur every three or four years, although the virus is still present at other times.

"This is definitely a peak year, he said, noting the recent cases in Uxbridge Twp. and York Region.

"When you come across a rabid animal in the country either avoid it or, if you're pretty sure it has (the disease), shoot it. And once you've shot it, dispose of it in a safe manner," he explained.

The biologist said the best protection is to have house pets and barn animals vaccinated.

Foxes and skunks are the main culprits, he explained, although a wide range of other animals are susceptible.

Anyone with rabies concerns can either contact Agriculture Canada's Health of Animals department (with area offices in Richmond Hill and Bowmanville) or the Medical Officer of Health, he noted.

The session was sponsored by the Goodwood Lions Club.

No answer

UXBRIDGE — Over-population of waterfowl at Elgin Pond remains a controversial and undecided issue.

"You can't shoot the birds," stated Uxbridge Twp. Councillor Ron Johnson, who is chairman of the public protection committee. "The thing is you kill 50 and 5,000 come to the funeral."

He admitted: "I don't know what the answer is."

Closure of the swimming area in August due to an unsafe level of faecal coliform prompted accusations that birds, particularly ducks and Canada geese, were polluting the water.

Edmonton tourney

UXBRIDGE — It will be a season to remember for the senior boys' basketball team at Uxbridge Secondary School.

The Tigers will be travelling to Edmonton, Alta. for the fifth annual Vic Redmen Invitational Basketball Tournament, Feb. 5 to 10, 1985.

The event, to be played on the campus of Victoria Composite High School in downtown Edmonton, features top cage teams from across Canada as well as some from the United States.

The tournament will have 16 senior boys' squads competing for individual and team awards, plus another eight in a girls' division.

Members of the Uxbridge entry have been involved in various fundraising projects over past months and coach Jim Schwan says all systems are go.

"The tournament is regarded as one of the best in Canada, and it should be a tremendous experience for the players, coaches and parents who attend," he says.



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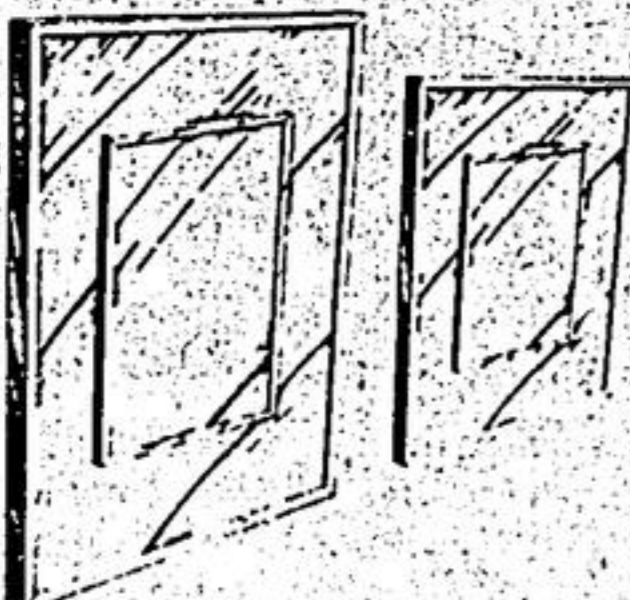


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