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The rabies reporter

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Rabies in the first quarter

Beverly Stevenson

So far, 2011 has been a very quiet year on the rabies front with only two rabid bats confirmed during the first three months. Although this is a 100% increase from the first quarter of 2010, it is still very good news.

Both big brown bats were from western Ontario (Bruce and Wellington counties).

Historically, there has been an increase in rabies cases during the late winter and early spring as a result of increased contact between animals during wildlife breeding seasons. However, the lack of cases in wildlife so far in 2011 suggests that the recent use of ONRAB® vaccine (which is effective in skunks, foxes, and raccoons), coupled with our immediate high density baiting in response to confirmed rabies cases, are an effective combination.

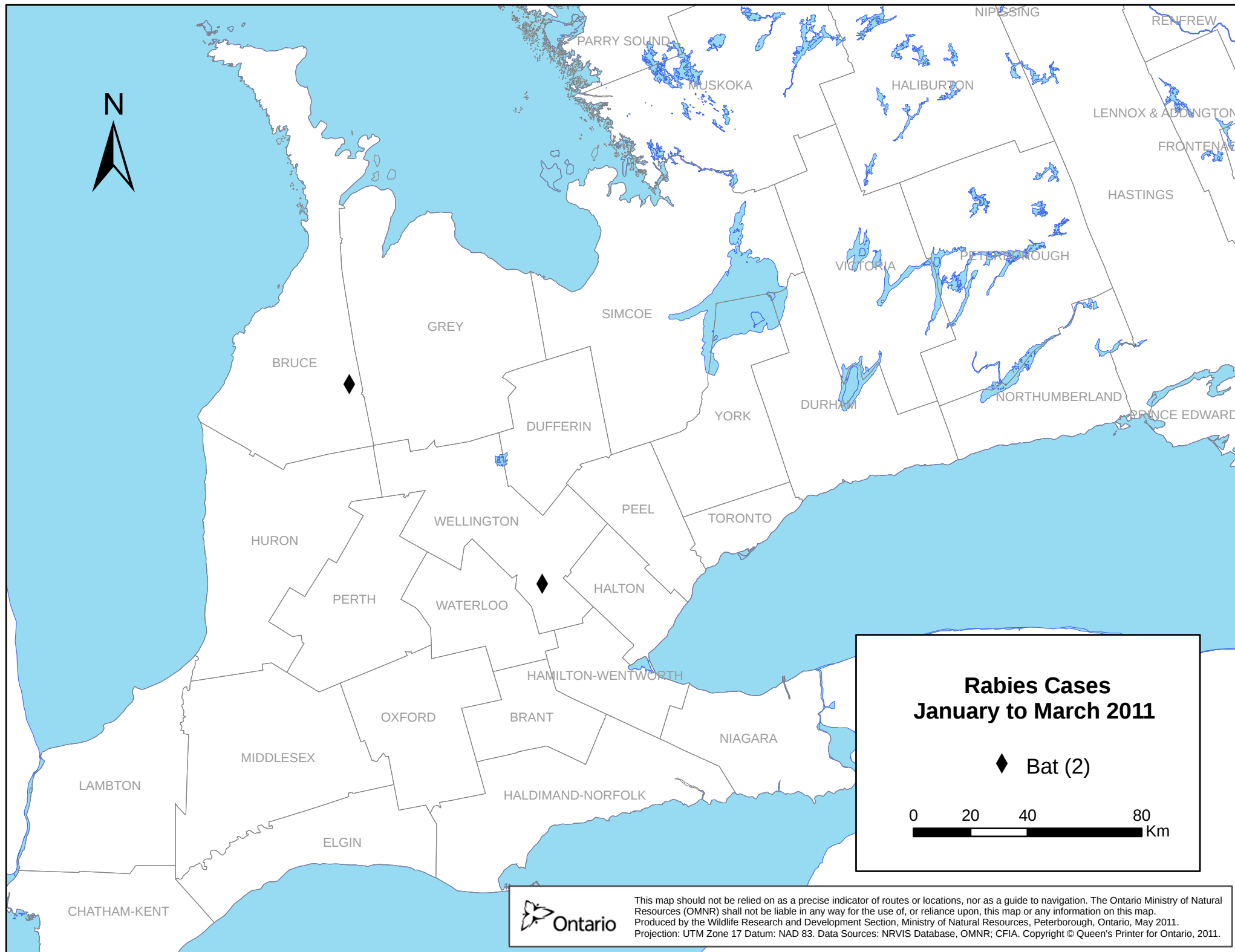
As in 2010, high density baiting will be conducted around any new terrestrial rabies cases in 2011. In addition to this, the regular aerial rabies baiting will be conducted in September. However, the area to be baited will be much smaller (39% reduction) than last year, given the decrease in rabies cases in the province.

Each year, baits are distributed in an approximately 50km buffer around all terrestrial rabies cases. As you will recall from the last issue of the Rabies Reporter, the only non-bat rabies cases since January 1st, 2010 were in Grey County. If there are no new cases before September, the baiting area will be reduced on the southern and eastern edges and will move further away from several urban centres including Toronto, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Guelph. Although we will miss seeing how much the urban sprawl has increased each year, there will be a lot less preparation required to arrange baiting times near the larger airports.

The Rabies Reporter, a scientific newsletter about current issues in rabies research and control, is a joint effort of the Rabies Research Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; the Rabies Laboratory at the Ottawa Laboratory (Fallowfield) of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Articles for future issues will be welcomed by the editor. The Rabies Reporter is not refereed, and should not be cited in papers intended for refereed journals. Send contributions, letters and inquiries to:

The Rabies Reporter
Rabies Research &
Development Unit
Ontario Ministry of
Natural Resources
Trent University—DNA Bldg.
2140 East Bank Drive
Peterborough, ON K9J 7B8

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Animal Rabies Report: January to March 2011

Animal Type	Fox			Raccoon			Skunk			Other Wildlife			Bat			Dog			Cat			Livestock			Totals		
County or Region	Cumulative			Cumulative			Cumulative			Cumulative			Cumulative			Cumulative			Cumulative			Cumulative			Cumulative		
	#	11	10	#	11	10	#	11	10	#	11	10	#	11	10	#	11	10	#	11	10	#	11	10	#	11	10
Southern																											
Wentworth																									0	0	0
Haldimand-Norfolk																									0	0	0
Brant																									0	0	0
Niagara																									0	0	0
Elgin																									0	0	0
Oxford																									0	0	0
Middlesex																									0	0	0
Lambton																									0	0	0
Kent																									0	0	0
Essex																									0	0	0
Northern																											
Muskoka																									0	0	0
Parry Sound																									0	0	0
Nipissing																									0	0	0
Sudbury																									0	0	0
Cochrane																									0	0	0
Timiskaming																									0	0	0
Algoma																									0	0	0
Thunder Bay																									0	0	0
Rainy River																									0	0	0
Kenora																									0	0	0
Regional Totals																											
Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Western	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1