



HEALTHY BODIES-Varian encourages its employees to exercise their limbs. There is also a weight-training facility and employees use their noon hour break

A 'wellness' program

Health and Safety Administrator Janice Kron calls it a "wellness program". And it's growing.

Varian Canada Inc. on River Drive is a company which stresses the health and safety of its employees.

As a member of the Human Resources Department, Mrs. Kron's responsibilities include developing preventative and education programs to improve the health of Varian employees. This means holding clinics on cessation of smoking, weight reduction, diet and exercising, plus counselling employees.

"Wellness" is described by Mrs. Kron as the promotion of an individual's physical, mental and emotional well being. She feels that the effects of the program have been positive and that it's not a passing trend.

Not too long ago, the company donated space for a fitness room and a squash court. With help from an employee fundraising drive and a Winlano grant, a fitness facility and squash court were constructed.

The employees themselves donated their time to help construct the facility. Before participating in the fitness program employees are required to have a fitness assessment. A fitness assessment is a measurement of an individual's fitness level and includes health counselling based on the results of the assessment.

About 100 employees originally

signed up for the fitness program, but that figure has increased by about 50. The interest is growing, not decreasing, she said.

In the spring, an instructors course was held for about 10 employees who now lead Varian employees through a noon-hour fitness program of stretches and movement. As well, squash classes are available for beginners and a squash ladder has been formed.

"The interesting thing about the facility is what it has done for morale," said Mrs. Kron. The fitness room brings different employees from various sections of the large plant together in a social atmosphere, she said.

The other aspect of Mrs. Kron's job is to promote safety through preventative and educational programs. She is responsible for administering programs designated by the Occupational Health and Safety Act as well as Varian's own safety programs.

Born in Ottawa, Mrs. Kron graduated with a degree in nursing science from McMaster University in Hamilton.

After working as a VON nurse for a year, she spent four years as a public health nurse with the North York Public Health Department and a year in teaching community nursing. Her interests include windsurfing, skiing and sailing.

She has two children, Johann, 11, and Sachia, 10.

Masse congratulates success of Varian products

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following are excerpts from a speech given by the Honourable Marcel Masse, Minister of Communications, at the opening of the Varian Canada Inc. plant extension April 26, 1986 in Georgetown:

Today's event is a significant milestone in the development of Varian Canada Microwave Division. It also symbolizes the leading role that communications industry will play in Canada's future economic growth.

The opening of the factory extension has its origins in plans initiated in the early 70s. The last few years have seen good results, as the sales figures are now ten times greater than at the beginning. Over the last fifteen years, we have seen the number of employees of the company grow in proportion to increasing sales, and the company has been able to offer 3,600 person-years to the community. The largest portion of this growth is attributable to export markets where the company has a strong foreign presence.

During this same time Varian has maintained a high level of investment in research and development. In fact, for 1985 and 1986 these investments stand at record values. The 1986 budgeted level of six per cent is higher than that for the comparable group within the parent company. It is but one reflection of the fact that Varian has shown itself to be a good corporate citizen.

It is worth noting that this impressive growth took place largely as a result of private sector initiative and investment. And when government did help, it got remarkably good value for its

money. For example, a modest Canadian government contribution of less than \$100,000 in the early 1970s, generated sales of over 20 million dollars.

More recently, as a result of initiatives taken by my department, funds in excess of one million dollars have been provided to augment a company investment of 600 K in the development of high-power amplifiers for satellite communications systems. These funds will help develop further this Canadian source for high powered amplifiers. Varian is, in fact, the only company in Canada which makes travelling wave tubes for these amplifiers.

I am also very pleased to announce that the first four production units of these amplifiers will be procured by the department of communications at a cost of one million dollars. If these had not been available from Varian, the government would have had to procure them from the United States at many times the cost. They will be used in earth terminals for communications experiments with the European Space Agency's Olympus Satellite which is due for launch in 1987. A possible further use would be the transmission of business data between metropolitan areas. These initiatives should place Varian in a strong position to capture the Canadian market for such amplifiers, and make significant inroads into the European market.

The very fact that a decision was made to expand this plant is proof that Varian Canada believes its future lies in Georgetown. Moreover, it believes in the future of its products and its ability to capture an increased share of the world

This commitment of continued support by the United States parent company to its Canadian subsidiary is particularly important to the people of Georgetown. Ever since the decision was made to locate here some 31 years ago, Varian Canada has been a predominant employer in this attractive community. It provides a rare opportunity to work in a high technology industry with a rural setting, close to a large metropolitan centre.

The creation of quality jobs in pleasant surroundings, world product mandates, international competitiveness - this is what the communications industry has come to symbolize in Canada and around the world. One of our government's fundamental commitments is to increase private sector investment in high technology research and development. We recognize that Canada's economic growth will increasingly depend on our ability to develop, acquire and apply advanced communications and information technology.

Both as a source of innovation, and to improve the productivity and competitiveness of established industries, the occasion we are celebrating today typifies the kind of event I hope will increasingly brighten the future for Canadians not only in Georgetown, but everywhere in the country.

I am pleased that you are able to join me today in celebrating Varian Canada's continuing development, and most particularly in witnessing the inauguration of this impressive new facility in which we are gathered. I now declare the new Varian Canada plant extension "officially open".

Thank you, Varian



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