

Health Unit wages war on VD

By Bob Burt

In the past three to five years the spread of venereal disease in Canada has reached its highest proportions since the second world war. Cases of gonorrhoea doubled in the two year period 1969 and 1970 in Ontario.

Veneral diseases are among the most prevalent communicable diseases in Ontario. Of the five types of VD, the two most common sexually transmitted diseases are gonorrhoea (sometimes referred to as "a dose" or "the clap") and syphilis.

Both are very serious diseases. Untreated, syphilis is potentially fatal. While gonorrhoea is not as serious, it is of a major concern because of the number of cases.

New values

Population explosion, mobility, the industrial revolution which replaced spiritual growth with material gain to a certain degree and caused a change in values as well as the change in morals and a generally different approach to life are attributed as reasons for the growing number of cases of VD in Canada.

The availability of birth control pills increases the possibility of spreading the infection, according to a Halton County Health Unit official.

The origin and history of venereal disease isn't clear. Some feel it was brought to this country by explorers and seamen but others feel it was here prior to the explorers and seamen.

As old as man

The disease is as old as man himself. Reference to the disease is recorded in the earliest history of man. A number of famous persons have died from the disease.

Faced with a dramatic increase in the number of cases in Ontario and Canada, the Ontario Department of Health commissioned a task force about three years ago.

Among other recommendations the force urged clinics be set up, properly financed and staffed to deal with the problem. Ten such clinics now exist in Ontario.

On the recommendation of the force, detected cases of VD are now reported directly to the MOH rather than the Ministry of Health, in order to expedite the identification and treatment procedures.

The MOH with the support of

the family doctor is responsible for determining and identifying contacts, locating and following up with treatment for contacts and arranging examination and treatment.

At the beginning of the year Halton County Health Unit appointed one of their staff health inspectors to work on the VD program.

Must report

This individual works basically on referrals from doctors. Doctors by law are required to report all cases to the health unit. If the doctor has identified and treated the situation to the satisfaction of the health unit, the report is accepted and sent to the department for statistical use.

If the case hasn't been treated or if contacts have not been identified and examined, the inspector requests permission to speak to the patient.

The MOH and his staff are bound to preserve the same confidentiality that exists doctor and patient. According to

a Health Unit official this is a prime concern and must be preserved at all cost. Statistics are gathered at the provincial office but those figures and not published.

Important role

Public health nurses play an important role in breaking the chain of infection. The nurse directs her efforts toward dispelling ignorance and helping the community arm itself against the enemy. Nurses conduct a continuing program of educating young people in matters of good health.

The county's program is a three-faced affair. The team enlightens as many people as possible about the disease and its transmission and tries to seek out reservoirs of infection and prevent the spreading of the infection.

The early detection of the infection is very important as the early stage is the easiest in which to treat the problem. Treatment, while not impossible, becomes

more difficult as the infection progresses.

Because the source many live many miles away from the first contact identified, it is difficult for a private doctor to break the chain of infection.

Locate contacts

This is where the MOH and the health unit come into the picture. When a case is promptly reported, the MOH, in co-operation with the physician is

able to locate contacts of the disease in whatever community they may reside. It is the responsibility of the MOH to have the individuals located, interviewed and if indicated, medically examined and treated.

A team including one full time health inspector, health nurses and private doctors all join in the fight against VD. The Ministry of Health has a variety of literature, film strips, slides, and films available through the health unit.



ESQUESING TOWNSHIP now has its own Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i faith. An assembly is formed whenever the Baha'i population over 21 is nine or more. (Baha'i pronounced Bah-high) is a world-wide religion formed in 1863. Members of the Esquesing Assembly are, front row, Mrs. Isobelle Weaver, Mrs. Mary Lamont, Mrs. Dale Sims and Mrs. June Warner; second row, Don Weaver, Mrs. Carolyn Dowdell, Bill Sims, Dave Dowdell and Wayne Miller.

What is V.D.?

The most dangerous of the venereal diseases is syphilis. Of those untreated one third are subjected to blindness, heart failure, paralysis or insanity in its final stage. If untreated, a pregnant woman can pass the disease to her offspring causing death or deformity.

Symptoms are similar for men and women. However many cases show no symptoms for a period from 10 to 90 days after infection. Often a small red sore the size of a dime appears, usually in the genital area but not always.

Rashes, sore throat or mouth, headaches, patchy loss of hair, slight fever or swollen glands are symptoms likely to appear three months after contact. During the period syphilis is highly contagious and can be spread through kissing in this stage.

These symptoms usually disappear without medical attention but then the disease goes into latent stage which lasts for years and is followed by the final stages.

Most common

Gonorrhoea is the most

widespread sexually transmitted disease and has doubled in the two years 1969 and 1970 in Ontario. Untreated, it can spread to others and result in female sterility, arthritis and damage to new born babies.

Often women show no symptoms of the disease even though they can spread it to others. When symptoms show up there is a mild burning sensation during urination and slight vaginal discharge, often confused with other conditions.

Men usually experience a burning sensation during urination and a discharge from the end of the penis. Some have no symptoms.

Can be cured

VD is spread by people who have it by intimate sexual contact, usually intercourse. VD may be dangerous if not treated. However every case can be cured but the damage cannot be repaired.

Health authorities urge people to see a doctor or visit a clinic on suspicion of exposure. Early reporting is important to ensure early diagnosis and to stop the chain of infection.



PREVENT DAMAGE

When painting your house, cottage or boat this summer practice eye safety reminds The Canadian National Institute for the Blind. A pair of safety goggles will prevent those tiny bits of paint from destroying and causing permanent damage to the delicate tissues of the eye.

DUE TO HOLIDAYS

Milton Bus Service will not be operating this week

resuming service July 26

MILTON BUS LINES

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	Present	Revised
RESIDENTIAL — Bi-Monthly		
First 100 K.W. Hrs.	3.80c	4.20c
Next 400 K.W. Hrs.	1.70c	2.00c
Balance of Basic consumption	1.10c	1.15c
RESIDENTIAL — 3rd Block PREFERRED Metered Electric Water Heating 1,000 K.W. Hrs.		
	0.85c	0.95c
Residential — Minimum		
Minimum MONTHLY bill	\$2.50	\$3.00
General Services — Monthly		
Demand Charge	\$1.90 per K.W. over 50 K.W.	\$2.00 per K.W. over 50 K.W.
First 50 K.W. Hrs.	3.80c	4.20c
Next 200 K.W. Hrs.	1.80c	2.00c
Next 9,750 K.W. Hrs.	1.55c	1.65c
Balance of K.W. Hrs.	0.60c	0.68c
General Service — Minimum		
Up to 50 K.W.	\$3.00 per month	
Over 50 K.W.	0.25c per month per K.W.	

Please note that in order to simplify billing procedures, the above rates are NET RATES. It will, however, be necessary to add 5 per cent for delayed payments.

MILTON HYDRO

Queries "tired" employee given absence from job

Is an employee who needs time off from work because of tiredness on sick leave, and is the employee entitled to pay for the period he or she is not working?

Members of Milton District Hospital Board asked themselves this question during their regular meeting last week. Trustee Bruce MacNab was querying a decision by administrator Ron Woods who gave an employee time off because she had a doctor's certificate saying she was tired and needed a rest.

"Does this go under sick leave or unemployment or what?" MacNab asked.

Suspicious

Board member Arthur Britton said he was "very suspicious" about some doctors' certificates. "Some employees tell their doctors that they have so much sick leave accumulated and they want time off."

His charges were challenged by Dr. W. S. Legate, the medical advisory committee's representative on the board. "I don't like that statement one bit. You're accusing the doctors," he snapped.

Legate also added that if an employer was hesitant about a doctor's diagnosis of sickness, the doctor should be approached.

"He'll give you a straight answer." The surgeon also added that tiredness might be an indicator of illness.

Valid request

Administrator Woods stated he felt the employee's request for time off was a valid one and said there had recently been an incident where an employee who was ill had to be forced to take sick leave. "So quite often it's the other way around," he noted.

Board members felt that similar requests should be

200 CAUSES

There are 200 known causes of mental retardation: in many cases the cause is still unknown.

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Weekdays: 7:55 a.m.; 12:40 p.m. and 6:40 p.m.

CFRB 1010