

Parents told

Don't accuse, but don't ignore signs

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

It can be hard to tell if your children are simply going through the typical changes of adolescence or if they're on drugs, a high school community council heard Monday night.

Many of the signs of drug use are the same as behaviour demonstrated by youths approaching adulthood, said public health nurse Brigitte Hill of the Halton Regional Health Department's substance abuse prevention program.

Youths who become moody, change their eating habits and become less communicative with their parents could fall into either category, Ms Hill told the Milton District High School Community Council-hosted Parent Drug Awareness Session.

"You can't accuse them of using drugs based on that," she said at the Williams Avenue secondary school. "You need concrete evidence."

However, without strong evidence, parents can simply ask their children if they're taking drugs and discuss the issue with them, Ms Hill said.

Unfounded accusations will automatically end any communication on the subject, she warned.

But the worst thing parents can do is ignore their suspicions.

Ms Hill, 28, said a lot of times suspecting parents refuse to recognize drug problems in their children because they don't want to believe such a situation could arise in their household.

"It just keeps getting put off until it becomes a huge problem," she said.

The age group of 14 to 17 years is usually the low point for parent-child relationships.

"If problems are going to start to happen that's when they're going to happen," the nurse noted.

She said while cocaine and heroin are used among Halton's youth, socially acceptable substances such as alcohol and tobacco are the drugs that cost the most overall.

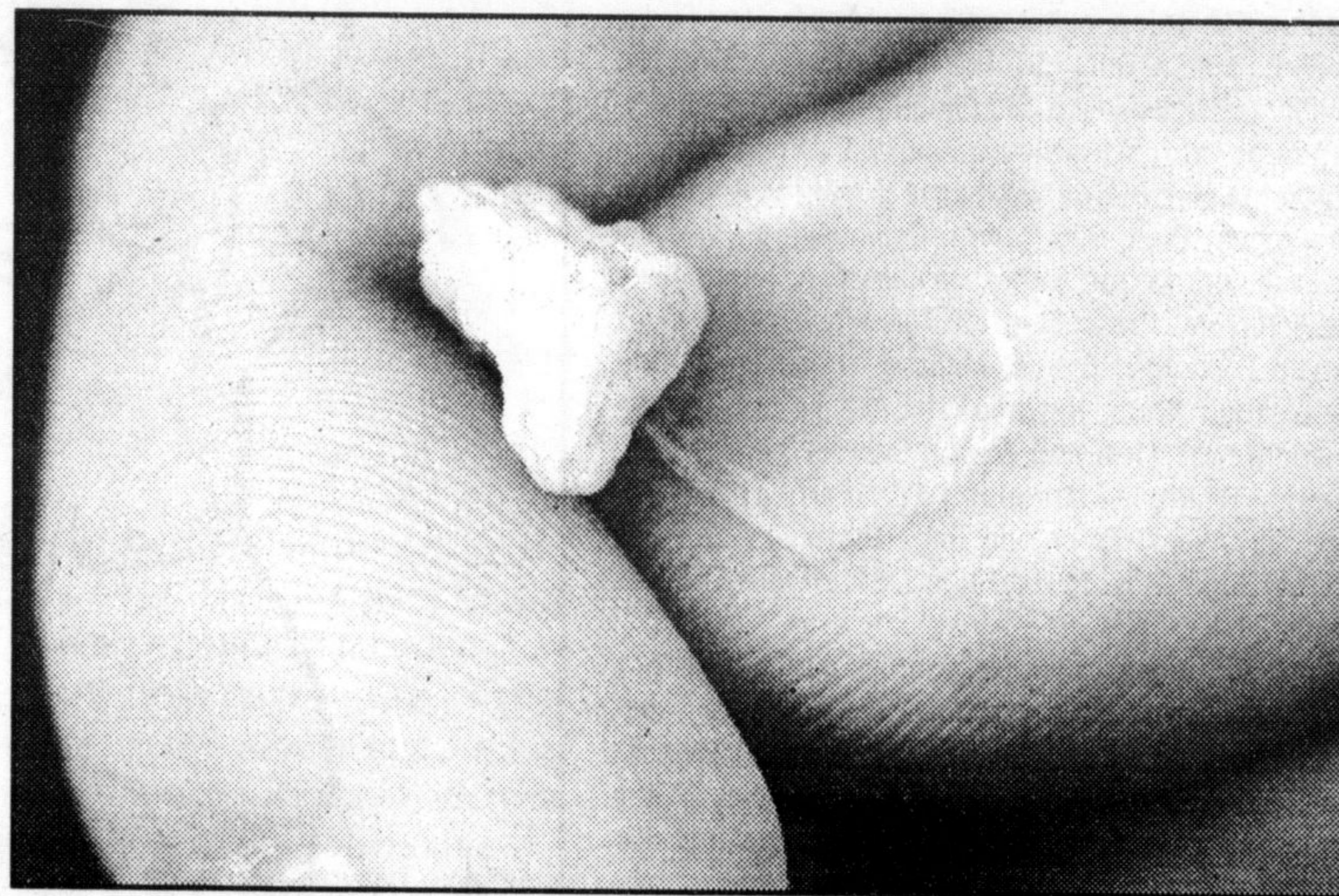


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

A piece of crack rock isn't a foreign substance to many youths.

It's reality that most youngsters will try alcohol, Ms Hill said, but a small number will take it too far.

"There are a handful of kids who will latch onto it and it will lead to other things."

At the same time, many youngsters don't realize booze can be lethal in high doses and people die of alcohol poisoning every year.

If a person drinks rapidly, a fatal dose of alcohol can be ingested. After the person passes out, the alcohol that's still in the stomach continues to be absorbed into the bloodstream. Here it may depress and eventually stop respi-

• see USE on page 8

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Since Labour Sponsored funds qualify as "small business property" under the Income Tax Act, investors are eligible for an increase in their foreign content limit of up to three times the cost of their labour sponsored fund investment. This increase is applied over three months from the date of purchase, and can increase the foreign content allowable to a maximum of 40% of the total cost of the RRSP.

Revenue Canada has confirmed that labour fund shares may qualify as small business property. This means investors may already be entitled to increase their limit. In a letter dated November 16, 1998, Paul Lynch of Revenue Canada states,

"... it is our opinion that, generally, an otherwise eligible corporation described in both sections 6700 and 6701 of the Regulations (for example a labour sponsored venture capital corporation) qualifies as an eligible corporation of the purpose of the small business amount."

How it Works

Assume an RSP has a total cost of \$100,000, and \$5000 of that has been held in Labour Sponsored funds over the past three months. The current 20% foreign content limit means that \$20,000 can be held in foreign investments. The new foreign content limit within the RSP equals to:

3 x LSF Investment (\$5000)	= \$15,000
Existing foreign content	= \$20,000
New foreign content limit	= \$35,000 or 35%

For more information on this commentary, or to receive a copy of **Rob's newsletter**, please contact:

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