

Promoting positive sexuality and safer sex is the main objective of the Sexx Facts Hotline presently in service at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

This toll-free hotline -1-800-667-SEXX (1-800-667-7399) allows teenagers and adults living in our region to call with any sex-related questions without feeling embarrassed or threatened.

Public Health nurses staff the hotline daily between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

At other times a taped message is available with information on the Health Unit's birth control and sexually transmitted disease(STD) clinics.

"We're providing an immediate, accurate source of information on sexual topics like condom use, signs of pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and birth control, said Darlene Binette, program supervisor.

"There are still a lot of misconceptions about sexual health matters out there."

Binette pointed out that

many people, especially youth, don't have a confidential source to turn to.

"They may go to their doctor, but that doctor may also be a family friend or neighbour and they may feel uncomfortable discussing sexual issues."

She also encourages parents to call with questions about their children.

"Anyone may call the hotline with a concern about anypuberty to thing from menopause."

The Sexx Facts Hotline has been installed at the Health Unit in response to the high number of unplanned pregnancies and high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among the youth of our region. Cases of syphilis have almost doubled.

The Health Unit has been active in teaching positive sexual behaviors to youth throughout school and community groups for the past fifteen years and provides clinic and counselling services.

The Sexx Hotline will be a

valuable addition in service. Health concerns at Minnova All hotline staff are public health or registered nurses who ence in dealing with the majority of issues, said Binette.

"We can also refer callers to different agencies if it is tiative to investigate and required. If they think they are resolve health concerns raised pregnant we can tell them by Minnova employees. where to get a pregnancy test."

how do I tell if I picked up an he added. STD, or if I'm pregnant? What is French kissing?

All calls to the Hotline are confidential, anonymous and free of charge. Even if the operator must connect the call, you will not be billed.

Members of the Minnova have a wide range of experi- Inc., Winston Lake mine employee Health and Safety Committee recently announced a joint union and company ini-

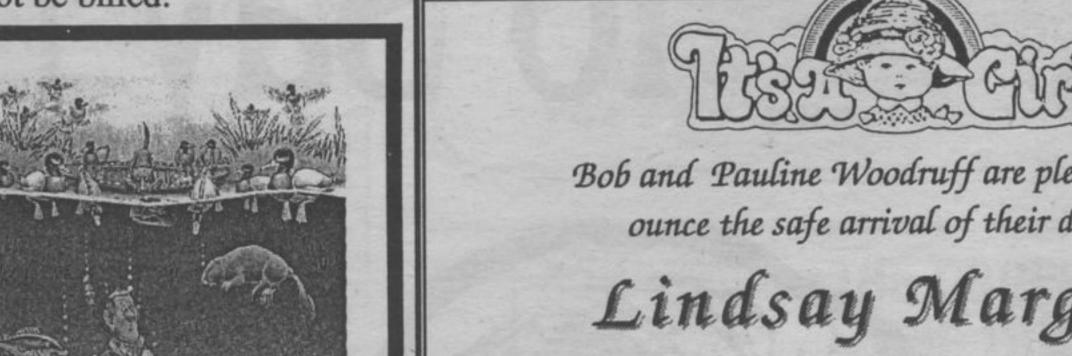
"We are all concerned for the health and safety of our peo-Among questions asked ple," stated Mine Manager Tom since the hotline started in early Dickson. "We welcome this April were: How is AIDS effort through the Health and transmitted? How do I handle Safety Committee and we want my boyfriend's pressure to have to resolve any health concerns sex? I had unprotected sex - that our employees may have,"

> The Committee has the full support and encouragement of both the United Steelworkers medical specialist is currently being selected by the commit-

tee to look into the matter. The specialist will have complete access to all available data and to the operation. There is agreement that any recommendations from the specialist will be implemented as soon as possible.

"While any personal information will of course be kept confidential, the overall findings of these investigations will be open and available to all concerned parties," said Bud McKenzie, Co-Chairman of the Committee.

The Minnova Inc., Winston Lake Mine is a 1000 tonne per day zinc-copper mine and employs 160 people. The of America and Minnova. A employees are represented by the United Steelworkers of America.









Bob and Pauline Woodruff are pleased to ann ounce the safe arrival of their daughter Lindsay Margaret born July 29, 1991 at the Port Arthur General weighing six pounds six ounces. We wish to thank Dr. Rohani and the nursing staff at the McCausland Hospital, Dr. Malloy and Dr. De and the nursing staff at the NICU and regular nursery at the Port Arthur General Hospital.

