



Health

It's a Great Feeling

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 anything from puberty to 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. All hotline staff are public health or registered nurses who have a wide range of experience in dealing with the majority of issues, said Binette.

"We can also refer callers to different agencies if it is required. If they think they are pregnant we can tell them where to get a pregnancy test."

Among questions asked since the hotline started in early April were: How is AIDS transmitted? How do I handle my boyfriend's pressure to have sex? I had unprotected sex - how do I tell if I picked up an 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.

Health concerns at Minnova

Members of the Minnova Inc., Winston Lake mine employee Health and Safety Committee recently announced a joint union and company initiative to investigate and resolve health concerns raised by Minnova employees.

"We are all concerned for the health and safety of our people," stated Mine Manager Tom Dickson. "We welcome this effort through the Health and Safety Committee and we want to resolve any health concerns that our employees may have," he added.

The Committee has the full support and encouragement of both the United Steelworkers of America and Minnova. A 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 employees are represented by the United Steelworkers of America.



It's a Girl!

Bob and Pauline Woodruff are pleased to announce 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.

Spadoni's

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