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RATES EFFECTIVE DEC. 28/90

Clinic fosters atmosphere of confidentiality, respect

From page 1

Ms. White cited statistics from a 1989 survey by Health and Welfare Canada which showed 31 per cent of males and 21 per cent of females in Grade 9 have had sexual intercourse at least once. These figures jump to almost 50 per cent for Grade 11 students.

And 15 to 29 year olds accounted for more than 78 per cent of the total number of cases of gonorrhoea.

In the past decade, both Ms. White and Ms. McDowell said they've noted an increased awareness, especially about the use of condoms, among young people.

Ms. White said the Markham clinic was welcomed in Markham by both the medical and school communities.

Doctors often refer patients who need additional counselling unavailable at a doctor's office due to time constraints, and referrals also come from high school guidance departments.

Many youths drop by on the advice of friends.

A client satisfaction survey was done last year by the department and "the results were overwhelmingly positive," Ms.

White said.

People remarked about the respectful and caring atmosphere at the York Region clinics, operated in Richmond Hill and Newmarket for the last 15 years.

A third clinic was necessary due to the growing population and to service the south end of the region. Previously, Markham residents had to rely on Richmond Hill or

know it's confidential," Ms. McDowell said. All files are kept under lock and key.

Approximately two-thirds of the clinic's clients are looking for birth control while the remaining one-third want STD information. The services offered are free, as are the drugs used in the treatment of disease.

The staff extends more than confidentiality to its clients: "It's a real skill to work with people and make them feel comfortable. Each person is an individual with unique needs," Ms. White said.

Privacy and respect extends to the washroom where clients can place their urine samples in a cupboard so people don't suffer the embarrassment of carrying the specimen through the waiting

A Health and Welfare study shows 31 per cent of males and 21 per cent of females in Grade 9 have had intercourse at least once

Scarborough clinics.

All clients, after making an appointment, spend at least 45 minutes talking with a nurse counsellor, explaining their situation and talking about sexual decision-making, then are examined by one of the clinic's two doctors.

The two examination rooms are equipped with wider-than-average examination tables.

"They come here because they

room. "The bottom line is doing what's comfortable for them," Ms. McDowell stressed.

And clients are carefully monitored, with check ups after one to three months, and again after six months and a year if, for example, the birth control pill is prescribed.

Recognizing some people are nervous or don't absorb all the information given, clients can call 1-800-461-2135 for information.

Gormley news

Resslerers visit family in Pennsylvania

Rev. and Mrs. Marlon Ressler enjoyed the holiday season with relatives in Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Neal Sider and family, of Wellandport, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wideman and family, of Belleville, and Mr. E.J. Wideman, of

Uxbridge, were guests of their mother, Mrs. Martha Wideman on Boxing Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Steckley and Mrs. Melba Steckley were Christmas guests of relatives in Pennsylvania. Miss Tammy Yake, of Atwood,

spent a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Glen Byers and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cullen and family were Christmas guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Cullen, of Mount Albert, on Saturday.

Mrs. Dave Bennett, Bonnie and Trevor, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Baker and boys were Sunday guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Noble, in Palmerston.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Warder and boys had Christmas on Friday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Frey, of Aylmer.

Miss Ruth McIlroy enjoyed Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon McIlroy, in Palmerston.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wideman entertained their family on Boxing Day.

Mr. Eugene Lemon, of Bloomington, had Christmas dinner with his nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Warder.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrin Shaw enjoyed a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Yake in Atwood.

Boxing Day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cullen were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Winger and family, of Listowell, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Baker and boys, and Mrs. Dave Bennett and family.

Rev. and Mrs. Willis Hunking, of Elmira, Rev. and Mrs. Mark Chester and family, of North Bay, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Smell, of Peterborough, Miss Pat Hunking, of Montreal, and Mr. Brian Hunking and boys, of Willowdale, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Elliott on Boxing Day.

The family of the late Nathaniel Baker held their family gathering on New Year's Day at Ballantrae Community Centre.

Rev. and Mrs. David Thiessen and family, of South River, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Thiessen and other relatives in the area, over New Year's

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