

# LOVE CANAL MEDICAL FUND

## Dioxin

Many of you may remember dioxin as one of the dangerous chemicals found in the Love Canal neighborhood. In fact, it was the chemical that one family believed was responsible for the death of their young son, who often played in the contaminated creek on the north side of the neighborhood.

Dioxin was also a chemical of concern for those men and women who served in the Vietnam war. Agent Orange, the herbicide sprayed in Vietnam, contained dioxin that resulted in major health impacts for Vietnam Veterans.

It has been over 30 years since the Love Canal events and only now is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally establishing residential soil standards for dioxin. The level found at Love Canal in the front and backyards on 97<sup>th</sup> Street ranged from 1,000 to 20,000 parts per trillion (ppt). On the dumpsite itself the highest level found was 176,000 parts per trillion.

EPA's draft recommendation proposes a new standard for residential areas at 72 parts per trillion (ppt), and 950 ppt for commercial and industrial areas.

Why this is important to you? Because the level of exposure at Love Canal was likely about one hundred times **higher** than EPA's proposed residential cleanup level and because the adverse health effects caused by dioxin are covered by the LCMF.

EPA is concerned about this chemical because it is so toxic and because the average American receives most of their dioxin exposure through the food we eat. EPA has found that the average daily intake of dioxin in this country is at or near the level of dioxin that can cause some adverse health problems.

So Love Canal families were exposed to dioxin not only through their diet, but also due to high levels found in soil in the neighborhood. Thus Love Canal families are at a very high risk for developing diseases related to dioxin exposure.

Dioxin gets into our food through air emissions that land on vegetation that is later fed to cows, chickens and other livestock. When the animal eats the food or grass, the dioxin is consumed and stored in their body. When you eat beef or drink the milk, the dioxin passes from the cow to the milk to you.

### Diseases Related to Dioxin Include:

Cancer – Soft or connective tissue, lung, liver, stomach, and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Reproductive – Hormonal changes, decreased fertility, miscarriages, ovarian dysfunction, endometriosis.

Male Reproductive – Reduced sperm counts, testicular atrophy, decreased testis size.

Birth defects – Cleft palate, hypospadias, delayed puberty, neurological problems.

Diabetes, heart disease, weight loss, wasting syndrome, change in thyroid hormones.

Skin disorders – Chloracne and eye lid cysts.

Damage to the liver, immune system, gastrointestinal and lung damage.

(See Issue 2, Winter 1998 for more information)

If you have any of these diseases, please submit your out-of-pocket expenses to the Love Canal Medical Fund according to the procedures outlined in the Medical Benefit's booklet.

**Date: Friday, August 13, 2010**

**Time: 3:30 to 5:30 PM**

Love Canal Medical Fund's  
25th  
Anniversary  
Reception

Cake, fruit punch, coffee  
and tea will be served.

*Come and meet the  
Board of Directors  
and  
First Niagara Risk  
Management staff  
who review all  
Beneficiary Claim  
forms.*

**Holiday Inn  
1881 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Amherst, NY 14226  
(at the I-290 and Niagara Falls  
Blvd. intersection)**

*Please let us know if you plan  
on attending by sending an e-  
mail to*

*lcmfund@yahoo.com,*

*or*

*by calling the Fund at*

*(716) 773-6578*

*By Monday, August 9th*