

Dirty Talk for Dummies



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TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

It's barely 10 o'clock in the morning and I'm sitting on erotica writer Patricia McCarthy's futon, talking about sex.

It's a jarring first assignment of the day, especially before breakfast. I'm a bit apprehensive.

Brought up in a modest household by ultra-conservative Asian parents, I'm not used to vocalizing what my naughty bits are doing, especially in front of strangers.

But the Ottawa resident, who will host a seminar on 'dirty talking' at this weekend's Sexapalooza show, has a way of putting people at

ease. She's got a low, soothing voice and discusses sex with the same nonchalance that some would talk about the weather, or a tennis match.

Many people are shy about talking dirty at first, she said.

"From the time that you're a child, you're taught to respect people. When you're talking dirty, you're speaking degradingly to a person," she said. "You have to put all that aside. You're creating a fantasy world."

More than 10,000 people are expected at Sexapalooza, which runs at Lansdowne Park this Friday to Sunday. The first-time event features over 100 exhibitors, seminars and workshops related to sex and sexuality, said Esther Vincent of Black Kat Enterprises, the company that operates Sexapalooza.

The show offers insight into sex and sexuality as well as how to be more confident and open-minded, she said.

McCarthy, who will be teaching people how to tap their inner vixen, said the first step is letting go of your inhibitions.

"It's in the heat of the moment," she said. "There's so much passion and lust that unexpected words come out of the blue."

"Have you ever talked dirty with someone?" she asked me suddenly.

"Sure," I stammer, without being entirely sure if it qualified.

Here's my chance to consult with a real expert. It's now or never. I summon the courage to ask her for tips.

"First, decide whether you'd be more comfortable being dressed or naked," she said. "Describe to your partner about how their body smells. Talk about the tex-

ture of their skin. Compare their body to that of an animal. Say they've got the stamina of a horse."

And don't be afraid to use harsh language, she said.

To get comfortable, McCarthy suggests practising in front of the mirror, as some porn stars do.

By this point, I'm pretty speechless.

No matter. McCarthy generously offers me copies of her vampire erotica novels, suggesting I read passages from them to my partner to get things going.

"It'll get your batteries revved up."

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Patricia McCarthy

Metro Ottawa's Tracey Tong is an award-winning reporter. A Burlington native, Tong's career has taken her all over Ontario. Her Cityscapes column appears every Wednesday.



Erotica writer Patricia McCarthy will be teaching Ottawans how to talk dirty, during Sexapalooza this weekend.

collision

Cop's crash not criminal: SIU

INVESTIGATION A city police officer did not commit a criminal offence when his unmarked cruiser collided with a car, injuring a couple and fracturing the skull of their three-month old baby.

A Special Investigations Unit probe of the incident concluded yesterday that a depression in the road contributed to the drivers' inability to see each other and that a police officer driving with emergency lights activated had a reasonable expectation that other motorists would yield right of way to him, said SIU director James Cornish.

On June 30, an officer responding to a stolen vehicle call was driving northbound on Fisher Avenue, south of Emperor. The officer was exceeding the speed limit while responding to a priority call and collided with the family car. Two adults in the vehicle suffered minor injuries and the three-month old baby suffered a skull fracture.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA