

Canadian Blood Services hits an all time low for donations

Canadian Blood Services Territory Manager, Elaine St. Pierre is appealing to all those located in Simcoe, Grey and Bruce Counties for support as the Canadian Blood Services appointments to donate hits an all time low. Reportedly, over the next two weeks only 466 appointments are accounted for out of a potential 1191 life saving spots needing to be filled.

Upcoming Clinics are scheduled for Owen Sound, Angus, Mount Forest, Collingwood, Wasaga Beach, Hanover and Shelburne. According to St. Pierre, the pressure is on if we as a country want to continue to save lives. Higher than expected cancellations and no shows have put on strain on the national inventory. By the end of October we will need to have approximately 3,700 appointments booked to keep up with demand, explained St. Pierre.

In the longer term we would like to book group appointments to help us fill in the gap and if anyone needs transportation to clinics, we can help with that. Until then, I am asking all communities to be inspired, come in and donate.

St. Pierre hopes people in their communities will help spread the word and prompt group challenges and reminds, One person really does make a difference.

According to the Canadian Blood Services website at www.blood.ca, every minute of every day, someone in Canada needs blood and the next person could be you or a loved one. Sad to imagine a situation where blood was needed in an emergency for you or a loved one and the unimaginable happened, there just wasn't any available. In an auto accident, a victim may require an average of 50 units, Leukemia sufferers require an average of eight units per week, and Cardiovascular Surgery and Cancer Treatment average five units each. In fact, over half of the Canadian population report they or a family member have needed blood during the course of their lives. Odd to think how such a precious commodity is so easily taken for granted.

If you or anyone you know would like to book an appointment or attend one of the clinics, take up a group challenge at work, school or at the gym, contact Blood Services Territory Manager, Elaine St. Pierre personally at 1-705-715-1590, go online at www.blood.ca, call 1-888-236-6283, e-mail elaine.stpierre@blood.ca and remember when you hear the signal on the radio, the signal means give! You too can save a life.

By Alex Sher