

Blood donors needed, so visit Schomberg clinic



As a result of nearly 12,000 unfilled appointments so far this summer, coupled with constant hospital demand, Canadian Blood Services is forecasting a need for 51,000 appointments to be filled between now and Labour Day to replenish stocks.

For that reason, Canadian Blood Services has extended the Blood Signal until Sept. 3 and is adding special 'Blood Signal' clinics during the month of August in selected locations, including Schomberg. Hours will also be extended at existing clinics to give donors even more opportunities to donate.

The Bloodmobile will visit the Trisano Centre in Schomberg on Thursday, Aug. 22 from 3-7 p.m.

The Blood Signal is a call to action for Canadians to rally together and book a blood donation when the need is greatest like now. Canadian Blood Services operates a national system and we are able to draw on our national reserves at times like these, said Robyn Owen, community development coordinator for donor and clinic services. Every summer is a challenge, but this year the trend is especially concerning as there are 51,000 appointments to fill between now and September 3 to keep blood inventory at an acceptable level.

The summer months are always challenging for Canada's blood supply and we are not alone; donations are soft in other countries as well. Blood systems in the U.S. and the U.K. have recently issued urgent appeals for blood donors due to fewer donations being made this summer and overall blood inventory levels falling.

No patient goes without blood, but with so many open appointments we need Canadians to book and donate now.

To book an appointment is easy, please visit www.blood.ca or call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283). Making an appointment now will ensure that patient needs are met this summer.

While appointments are not required, those wishing to donate are encouraged to call ahead to reduce wait times.

Residents of Schomberg and King are asked to give blood at the local community donor clinic.