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Weather



TODAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 15
LOW OF 2



TUESDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF 18
LOW OF 11



WEDNESDAY:
SHOWERS

HIGH OF 17
LOW OF 10



THURSDAY:
60% CHANCE
OF SHOWERS

HIGH OF 18
LOW OF 3



FRIDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 20
LOW OF 8

“Give blood, give life.”

Hema-Quebec/Familiprix Blood Drive - a success in Potton



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

Friday, September 6 found a steady flow of blood donors from 1pm through to 7pm at the FamiliPrix Pharmacy located at 316 Rue Principale in Mansonville. The Hema-Quebec vehicle, driven by “Brigitte” a Hema-Quebec staff who takes both blood and drives the very oversized vehicle to a variety of locations, arrived just before noon hour to prepare for the afternoon. Under the direction and watchful eye of Isabelle St-Hilaire, “Superviseur des collectes mobiles,” the Hema-Quebec team and volunteers who greeted donors as they arrived, were in full professional operation for the afternoon in Potton.

“The amazing job of the volunteers and the planning work of Stephanie Côté from Hema Quebec who coordinated the event held at our FamiliPrix Pharmacy, made the day run smoothly,” said Pharmacist and Co-owner, Cathy Riendeau.

The process of donating blood is done with the safety and best interest of all at the forefront. While many were quick to offer to give, for a variety of reasons

some were not able; due to their health status, risky activities related to communicable diseases, travel...

“I am very proud of the turnout,” said Riendeau, “Regardless of whether or not all of those who showed up could give blood, the fact that they took the time to try is what we must emphasize and applaud.”

During the “whole blood” donation, the blood is collected as is and separated into various components in a laboratory. Red blood cells help patients with anemia, surgery or accidents. Plasma is used in cases of severe hemorrhage, immunodeficiency and with major burn victims. Platelets are for blood diseases and chemotherapy and white blood cells for infection. A technology called apheresis makes it possible to collect only desired blood components as it separates the blood as it is collected.

For some who donated, the process was one they had done many times. For other first time donors, it was a rewarding experience that they hope to repeat in the future as they left knowing that they potentially had helped many in need in a variety of ways.

The space inside of the mobile Hema-Quebec unit is very tight however, the staff was so efficient and familiar with their tasks that it was quite something to witness. Three interview rooms for collecting health information, taking blood pressure, temperature and hemoglobin levels as well as four beds and the necessary supply cupboards, equipment/machines and supplies, a small walkway and an area to sit as you enter on one end and exit on the other (also

serving as seats with seat belts for staff who ride in the vehicle to reach the destination) and a driver’s area are all part of one mobile vehicle. It is quite impressive and the talents of the driver must be admired.

The Potton community was extremely happy to have Hema-Quebec present in the area and there was a buzz of excitement as clients came and went in the pharmacy in seeing the unit and those preparing to donate blood. Many of the Pharmacy staff were a part of the donor team and were on hand encouraging and welcoming all.

For more information about Hema-Quebec call 1-800-847-2525 or visit: www.hema-quebec.qc.ca Any information collected by Hema-Quebec donors, which includes test results, is kept confidential, in accordance with the law. Donors may consult their file and, if necessary, have it rectified.



PHOTOS BY MABLE HASTINGS

Ben by Daniel Shelton

