

Red Cross looking for Milton bone marrow donors

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

People who register to be bone marrow donors may never be needed, but they also may one day save a life.

Many people requiring bone marrow transplants have died waiting to find an appropriate donor, while

others have lived long lives as a result of successful transplants.

The Canadian Red Cross Society will seek people willing to be bone marrow donors at Milton District Hospital Monday — one of the rare times the organization has brought its donor registry program to Milton.

Information meetings will be held at the Derry Road hospital in the

clinical classroom at noon, 2, 4, and 6 p.m.

People aged 17 to 59 years are eligible to sign up to be donors, said Nicola Jackson of the west-central Ontario branch of the Red Cross. A small blood sample will be taken from those who choose to register.

In the program, records of the potential donor's marrow type and

other personal information are stored on computer for quick access when a donor is needed.

Ms Jackson explained matching two people's bone marrow outside of relatives is a difficult task. "Only one-third find a match."

The Red Cross is hoping to attract 50,000 donors to increase the chances. So far, about 33,000 people

have signed for the program, which was first organized in Canada in 1988.

About 600 people across the country per year — those with blood-related diseases such as leukemia, aplastic anemia, and lymphoma — require transplants.

Donating bone marrow means surgery and often results in temporary discomfort such as soreness, stiffness, and bruising to the hip area where the marrow is taken, said Ms Jackson.

The donor may also be prescribed iron supplements following the procedure.

Bone marrow transplants were first successfully performed in the late 1960s, added Ms Jackson.



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DATELINE

Friday June 5

E.C. Drury High School's cooperative education department hosts a breakfast to thank all businesses and agencies in Milton that hosted co-op students during the past semester. School trustees are on hand to applaud participants.

Saturday June 6

Martin Street Public School's Spring Fling takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Barbecue, bake table, kids' games, and draw are included in fun for the whole family.

The Nassagaweya Community Fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Brookville School on Guelph Line. Get in shape with the fun run at 9:15 a.m. The fair also features games, petting zoo, pony rides, entertainment, craft table, giant prize raffle, and community displays. Canada's 125 is celebrated with a flag raising and party at 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Brookville minor ball clubs host community activities at the Brookville ball diamond from 2 to 11 p.m. The chicken barbecue begins at 5 p.m. — \$6 for a half chicken and \$3.50 for a quarter chicken — followed by a dance. For barbecue tickets, call Janet Inglis at 854-2566 or Sue Bosch at (519) 766-9669.

Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church holds a chicken barbecue at the No. 15 Sideroad church from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 which includes a 1/2 chicken plus all the extras. For tickets call Mona at 854-2375 or Donna at 856-9241.

Take a historical walk in old Milton. See the inside of seven plaqued houses from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Start at Hugh Foster Hall. Refreshments available at St. Paul's United Church's Graham Hall. All proceeds go to the Children's and Youth Foundation. Tickets cost \$10 and are available at Harris Stationery, Spice O'Life, The Champion, or call 876-3377. They are also available on the day of tour at Hugh Foster Hall.

Sunday June 7

The Milton Children's Chorus presents An Afternoon of Song at Knox Presbyterian Church on Main Street at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$8 for adults, \$5 for students, and \$2 for children aged 12 years and under. Tickets are available at the Paper Factory on Main Street. For more information, call 875-3310.

Monday June 8

A blood donor clinic takes place at Milton District Hospital from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The clinic is open to the public. Bring a friend.

Wednesday June 10

Bereaved Families of Ontario, Halton/Peel meets at Mississauga Central Library, 301 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W., Room CL3, at 7:30 p.m. Call Myrna Renshaw at 507-2200.