

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Don't stop giving blood because you've heard the Red Cross will stop its blood collection, the agency's York Region manager is urging residents.

And don't forget the Canadian Red Cross will continue to do many other important things in the community, Donna Chanda added from the branch office in Newmarket (this week).

The federal government has

decided the Red Cross will hand its collection role over to a new national blood agency, and both national and local Red Cross officials worry that fewer people might give blood or volunteer in clinics during the transition period. "The Red Cross is still collecting blood," Chanda stressed. "There will still be a great need for that and we will continue that role until it changes."

Supplies of groups O and A are especially low following the long weekend, noted representatives at

the Toronto Blood Centre, which manages blood for York Region.

Donations are more prized than usual in the summer, Chanda said, because many regular donors are on vacation, and more travel on the roads means more accidents requiring blood.

Donor clinics remain scheduled in the area, including one in Newmarket Wed., Aug. 20 at the community centre on Cedar Street, from 1 to 8 p.m.

Another will be next Thurs., Aug. 14, at Markham's Grace

HEALTH

Anglican Church, 19 Parkway Ave., from 3 to 8 p.m.

The York Region branch recruits volunteers for the blood centre but isn't involved in the technical parts of blood collection, so immediate changes from the federal decision will be "minimal" here, Chanda said.

But even after blood clinics are run by another group, the Red Cross will concentrate on helping

vulnerable people in the community, she said.

The York Region branch teaches water safety and offers courses almost daily on safety, first aid or CPR. It has a youth council in the Markham area, which promotes education on international development in the schools.

It also has a tracing and reunion program for immediate family members who have lost contact with each other, runs a homemaking service, and loans health care equipment.

ADVERTISING CORRECTION

Our Home Values broadsheet, included in this newspaper this week. Please note the following: Page 7 - Inglis dishwasher featured is not exactly as illustrated. Inadvertently, the error listed appeared in our advertising. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or confusion to our customers.

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