

appointments at a later date.

As they have yet to make it in for the test, the challenge appears to have ended in a deadlock unless the competition is expanded to include Cumberland Coun. Jessie Ketter who also took part.

On top of the elected officials, Jeanette Reinhardt, health promotion educator with AIDS Vancouver Island, said seven members of the public stopped by the Campbell River AIDS Vancouver Island office for free testing while three dropped by in the Comox Valley.

The tests were to help detect for the presence of hepatitis C, the most harmful strain of the disease which attacks the liver and can be caused by illness, alcohol abuse or other medical conditions.

Hepatitis C can be particularly dangerous because people often don't know they have it. At least 44 per cent of Canadians with the disease aren't aware they have it because symptoms don't typically appear until their liver is already damaged, which can take 20 years or more.

Hepatitis C testing is available at the public health office in the back of Tye Plaza and anyone who donates blood is screened for the disease.

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