

HEADWATERS FOOD SYSTEM

OUR VISION

We envision a food system in the Headwaters that is productive, sustainable, transparent, and fair; supports the health and well-being of our residents and food providers; and contributes to a prosperous and equitable economy.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- All Headwaters residents have access to—and can afford to eat—safe, nutritious and culturally acceptable food
- All Headwaters residents have the skills and knowledge to support healthy eating and make healthy food choices
- There is a diverse and sustainable food and farming system in Headwaters. The foundations of this system, including a skilled work force, informed residents, and protected land base, are maintained
- Agriculture and food businesses are connected to each other and to the community in order to contribute to job creation and a prosperous economy
- Headwaters residents, politicians, and leaders are actively engaged in making and implementing decisions to positively impact our food and farming system

WE VALUE

A healthy, inclusive community where:

- Ecosystems provide us with healthy food
- Residents are well nourished
- Successful food and agriculture businesses contribute to economic prosperity

OUR FIVE PRIORITIES

GROW AWARENESS Educate and engage people about food and farming issues & opportunities	Year 1 Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents within Headwaters are aware of the importance of local food and are purchasing and consuming local foods. • All residents have adequate food literacy skills to prepare and consume healthy foods. • Work collaboratively to ensure those experiencing economic hardship in Dufferin have access to culturally acceptable, safe and nutritious foods to meet their dietary needs; in a manner that maintains human dignity
	Year 1 Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To choose activities for action that will impact all three goals of the Group's Goals
	Group Lead	Lisa Needham - Lisa.Needham@wdgpublichealth.ca ; (800) 265-7293 x 5622
EXPAND SCHOOL PROGRAMS Educate and engage our youth through school-based	Year 1 Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To collaborate with schools to provide children and youth with opportunities and experiences to learn about food and farming in the Headwaters • To empower children and youth to share information with their families about healthy, seasonal, local food choices
	Year 1 Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an inventory of schools (all elementary & secondary) in Headwaters • Replicate Existing Programs of Eat Local Caledon throughout Headwaters • Empower kids to share healthy, local, seasonal food ideas with their families
	Group Lead	Sylvia Cheuy – action@headwaterscommunities.ca ; (519) 940-3118

food and farming programs		
OUR FIVE PRIORITIES (continued)		
IMPROVE POLICY Work together to create supportive food system policies	Year 1 Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist in developing policies that support the work of the Priority Working Groups of the Headwaters Food Summit; and, To identify the assets and concerns of the Headwaters community regarding food and farming policies.
	Year 1 Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop an inventory of all stakeholders within the food value chain. To identify what current policies impacting food that exist at the municipal level To identify who can influence policies that can impact food To identify key assets and gaps To establish a working draft of a food charter.
	Group Lead	Lisa Needham - Lisa.Needham@wdgpublichealth.ca ; (800) 265-7293 x 5622
FACILITATE DISTRIBUTION Enhance links between food producers and consumers to strengthen our food economy and food access	Year 1 Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an Asset Map and Conduct a Needs Assessment Research & Make available a Best-Practices Inventory
	Year 1 Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an inventory of Headwaters producers, retailers, farmers' markets, other components of the supply chain Research what other communities are doing and focus on possible models that could apply for Headwaters region
	Group Lead	Theresa Sauren – theresa@dufferin.biz , (519) 938-6601
SUPPORT CULINARY TOURISM Promote and enhance culinary and agricultural tourism.	Year 1 Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Culinary Tourism Asset Map Update and expand on existing food maps and events Link with OCTA
	Year 1 Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory culinary tourism assets (farm gate sales, farmers' markets, events, restaurants, caterers, culinary classes/workshops/hands-on culinary/food experiences) Work with the DFA, Eat Local Caledon and Town of Erin to assess the possibility of updating and/or integrating current food maps to create some form of a "Headwaters Farm Fresh" map Champion & explore the potential of the Hills of Headwaters 'Feast' program drawing on best practices around these events Research opportunities for the inaugural Harvest Festival that is being planned in 2013 Become a member of OCTA and engage stakeholders through a communication's strategy
	Group Leads	Michele Harris – michele@thehillsofheadwaters.com ; (519) 942-0314 Sandra Dolson – sandra.dolson@caledon.ca ; (905) 584-2272 x 4152