



# NEWS RELEASE

from Halton Healthcare Services

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Celebrating Local Food Week at Halton Healthcare Services**

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) is celebrating Local Food Week, designated from June 2nd to 6th, by hosting its first Local Food Expo. The Expo will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) auditorium, located in the lower level of the hospital.

“We are very excited to be able to host our first food expo at the hospital, and we hope it will be the first of many. We invite everyone from all our HHS communities, as well as our staff, physicians and volunteers to come out and join us,” explains Marianne Katusin, HHS Manager, Operational Readiness - Food Services. “What a great week to learn about the local food chain in Ontario and see how we are incorporating local foods into our hospital menus. Come out and taste samples, purchase sweet treats and talk to the growers and manufacturers themselves.”

Ms. Katusin explains that in January, 2014 HHS was awarded funding from the Ontario Greenbelt Fund for an innovative project called ***Good For You, Locally Grown***.

“Through this project, our HHS Food Services team is developing one of the first healthcare local food procurement policies aimed at getting more local food into hospital kitchens across the province. This innovative project involves developing creative menu plans using local foods, which can then be easily replicated by other hospitals,” explains Ms. Katusin. “We are redefining hospital food as fresh, ‘good for you’ and ‘locally grown’. Our goal is to provide our hospital patients, their families and visitors with more delicious food options and a more enjoyable hospital experience.”

“Our hospitals serve more than 300,000 residents in the Halton Region – and being able to serve more fresh, tasty and locally grown food options to our patients and their families while they are in our care will help enhance our culture of care,” explains Elma Hrapovich, HHS Director, Nutrition and Food Services. “The Greenbelt Fund provides us with the opportunity to build local networks, support Ontario producers and host Food Expos, as we develop a local food policy for HHS, and help lead the way for other healthcare facilities in Ontario”.

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**HHS Hosts Local Food Expo at OTMH**

“Many of our partners such as the Greenbelt Fund, Gordon Food Service and Signature Culinary Solutions as well as our local food growers from across Halton such as Andrews Scenic Acres and Stonehaven Farm will be at the Expo,” concludes Ms. Katusin. “There will be many different tasters and samples and lots to see and buy. Don’t miss out. Join us!”

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) is a progressive, multi-site healthcare organization comprised of three community hospitals - Georgetown Hospital (GH), Milton District Hospital (MDH) and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH). Together these hospitals provide healthcare services to more than 300,000 residents in the communities of Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills. With an outstanding reputation as a workplace of choice and a good community partner, HHS hospitals have been recognized for their best practices in a number of patient safety and patient care initiatives. In 2013, HHS was Accredited with Exemplary Standing - the highest possible status granted by Accreditation Canada.

*Complimentary parking will be available at the Oakville Curling Club (224 Allan Street).*

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