



Halton Healthcare

NEWS RELEASE

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Halton Healthcare hosts Local Food Expo on June 8th at OTMH

(Oakville, ON) May 24, 2017 - Halton Healthcare is celebrating Local Food Week, designated from June 4th to 10th, by hosting a Local Food Expo. The Expo will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2017 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) cafeteria.

"We are very excited to be able to host this food expo at our new Oakville Hospital, and we hope it will be the first of many. We invite everyone from all our Halton Healthcare communities, as well as our staff, physicians and volunteers to join us," explains Marianne Katusin, Manager, Food Services. "Come out and taste samples, purchase treats and talk to the growers and manufacturers themselves."

Halton Healthcare started hosting local food expos in 2014 and 2015 with funding from the Greenbelt Fund through the Government of Ontario's Local Food Investment Fund program, as part of an innovative project at Halton Healthcare called **Good For You, Locally Grown** aimed at getting more local food into hospital kitchens across the province. Halton Healthcare has once again been awarded funding from the Greenbelt Fund, in partnership with the Government of Ontario, to continue with the second phase of this local project focusing on skills development, the sourcing of more local food products, innovation and product development.

"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 helps enhance our culture of care," explains Elma Hrapovich, Director, Support Services. "The Greenbelt Fund provides us with the opportunity to continue to build local networks, support Ontario producers and host Food Expos, and lead the way for other healthcare facilities in Ontario."

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Local Food Expo at OTMH – June 8th

“Many of our partners such as the Greenbelt Fund, Gordon Food Service and the Turkey Farmers of Ontario as well as our local food growers from across Ontario such as Cohn Farms, Martin’s Sweet Farm and Farm to Table will be at the Expo. We also have some new manufacturers and growers coming out as well,” continues Ms. Katusin. “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. Join us!”

“At the Greenbelt Fund we seek out strong leadership in bringing more local food to Ontario plates, and Halton Healthcare has consistently delivered,” said Burkhard Mausberg, CEO of the Greenbelt Fund. “Serving fresh, local food to patients in hospitals is the right thing to do from a health and wellness perspective for patients, and for Ontario’s economy. I look forward to celebrating Halton Healthcare’s ongoing success at the Local Food Expo.”

About Halton Healthcare:

Halton Healthcare is comprised of three community hospitals - Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Together these hospitals provide healthcare services to more than 350,000 residents in the communities of Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville. Halton Healthcare hospitals have been recognized for their best practices in a number of patient safety and patient care initiatives. For more information, visit www.haltonhealthcare.com. Follow us on Twitter @HaltonHealthcare.