

**NEWS RELEASE** from Halton Healthcare Services

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## HHS Hosts Fall Food Expos during Ontario Agricultural Week

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) is celebrating Ontario Agricultural Week, designated from October 6 to 12, 2014, by hosting Fall Food Expos at each of its three hospitals.

"Our first local food expo held in June of this year was a huge success. We had over 500 people attend. In fact, it was such a success, that HHS was selected as the winner of the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers' (OGVG) First Local Food Week Competition for its food expo and the related promotional activities," explains Marianne Katusin, HHS Manager, Operational Readiness - Food Services.

"We are very excited to be hosting food expos at each of our hospitals this Fall, and hope they will be just as popular," continues Ms. Katusin. "We invite everyone from all our HHS communities, as well as our staff, physicians and volunteers to come out, taste samples and purchase vegetables or baking and other treats."

In January, 2014 HHS was awarded funding from the Ontario Greenbelt Fund for an innovative project called *Good For You, Locally Grown* aimed at getting more local food into hospital kitchens.

"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," said Ms. Katusin.

"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 including Andrews Scenic Acres, Springridge Farm and Stonehaven Farm will be at these expos. We have some new manufacturers and growers coming out as well," notes 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!"

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The HHS Fall Food Expos will be held on Monday September 29, 2014 in the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) Auditorium at 327 Reynolds Street, Oakville from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, on Tuesday October 7, 2014 in the Georgetown Hospital (GH) Activity Room at 1 Princess Drive in Georgetown from 11:00 to 2:00 pm and on Wednesday October 8, 2014 in the Milton District Hospital (MDH) Classroom at 7030 Derry Road in Milton from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Halton Healthcare Services is a progressive, multi-site healthcare organization comprised of three community hospitals - Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. 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.

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