

Haliburton Community Food Assessment - An Overview

What is a Community Food Assessment?

A Community Food Assessment is a powerful way to tell the story of what is happening with food in a community with the goal of encouraging efforts to improve how food is produced, processed, and distributed. Through such assessment, diverse stakeholders work together to research local food based infrastructure, share findings, make recommendations, and implement changes based on their findings.

The Haliburton Community Food Assessment is focused on gathering information on food-related issues in order to help guide decisions on these important public discussions. A committee of local stakeholders has been formed to collaborate with the community to put together an overview of the Haliburton community food system.

Benefits of Conducting a Community Food Assessment

- Gain a better understanding of local food production, processing, and distribution
- Put together information needed to help improve the Haliburton food system
- Create more opportunities for long term planning and actions
- Help inform local decision making and policy
- Encourage the community to engage in public decision making
- Improve coordination between food related projects
- Expand on existing food related programs
- Broaden local networks and partnerships
- Foster consensus on data to help measure progress over the long term

Project Purpose

To conduct a Community Food Assessment that will inform long term planning and action towards a sustainable food system that benefits everyone in the Haliburton region.

Local Partners and Steering Committee Members

Abbey Gardens - *Heather Reid*

Bedrock & Brambles - *Andrew von Zuben*

Haliburton County Farmers' Association - *Bryan Barlow*

Haliburton County Farmers' Market - *Angel Taylor*

Haliburton County Food Net - *Rosie Kadwell*

Haliburton Highlands Community Garden Network - *Megan Stong*

Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit - *Rosie Kadwell, Megan Stong*

Harvest Haliburton - *Angela McGreevy* (Jan.2014 - Oct.2014), *Rosie Kadwell*

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs - *Heather Candler*

Municipality of Dysart et al - *Pat Martin* (Jan.2014 - Jan.2015)

Township of Algonquin Highlands - *Lisa Barry*

Township of Minden Hills(Jan.2014- Nov.2014), Minden Hills Community Member - *Brigitte Gall*

Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition & HC Link - *Lisa Tolentino*

Guiding Principles and Role of Steering Committee

The steering committee is responsible for the overall direction and setting the goals of the community food assessment. This is accomplished with the help of community members and organizations with the intention of fostering community-wide involvement.

Throughout the assessment process there will be many different opportunities for members of the community to participate through consulting, learning, and mentoring.

Expected Outcomes

This project aims to help local stakeholders work together to improve food production, processing, and distribution.

This includes food related economic and cultural development.

An anticipated result of the assessment process will be a document to help:

1. Identify community assets, weaknesses, and opportunities for action
2. Improve the understanding of food's importance to the physical, social, environmental and economic health of the community.
3. Provide up-to-date and relevant research for use in funding applications, advocacy, and policy development
4. Build the capacity of the community to respond to change and emergencies

Assessment Priorities

The steering committee split into three groups to focus on these specific aspects:

1. Local food production, supply, and consumption
2. Community access to food
3. Municipal planning policy

Financial support is provided by:

- Haliburton Community Development Corporation
- Healthy Communities Fund of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care as a component of the project "Healthy Food For All: Sustainable Local Food Systems in Ontario"
- HKPR District Health Unit
- Ministry of Health and Long Term Care / Harvest Haliburton & Haliburton County FoodNet
- Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition / HC Link

For more information please email Haliburton County Community Food Assessment Steering Committee at haliburtoncountyCFA@hkpr.on.ca or call 705 457-1391 ext. 3238