

[Headwaters Communities in Action](#) (HCIA) is a grassroots citizen group that fosters community leadership and action in support of a long-term vision of well-being for Ontario's Headwaters region. HCIA's multi-sector Leadership Council has convened and supports collaborative projects that enhance community well-being – which is defined as having five pillars: Healthy People; Dynamic Economy; Sustainable Environment; Vibrant Culture; and, Engaged Citizens.

HCIA relies on extensive citizen consultation and consensus-building and its work is grounded in the belief that complex community problems are best solved through collaboration across multiple sectors and jurisdictional boundaries as well.

Most recently, HCIA has begun working collaboratively to develop and implement a food and farming strategy for the region. This work began in April 2012, with HCIA playing a leadership role convening the very successful inaugural [Headwaters Food Summit and Local Food Trade Fair](#) that resulted in a consensus around priority areas for collaboration to strengthen the region's food and farming system. In addition to HCIA's most recent work on a Headwaters Food and Farming Strategy, HCIA's key projects – which transcend the mandate of any one sector, organization or local municipality – have included:



- **Championing of Trails and Active Transportation** – This work has involved building consensus with stakeholders on short-term, system-wide trails priorities for the region; requesting and supporting Dufferin County's first-ever Trails & Active Transportation Master Plan; supporting the updating of Caledon's Trails Master Plan; partnering on funding applications for priority trails projects; making area trails maps available via the internet; establishing [a trail counter loan program](#) which loans infra-red trail counters to area trails groups in order to help them monitor and collect data on the use of their trail; and certifying 15-20 volunteer [CANBIKE safe cycling instructors](#).
- **Researching and Profiling of Community Well-Being in Headwaters Region** – HCIA initiated work on the [Headwaters Community Well-Being Report](#) in 2008 in response to citizens' request for a resource to "facilitate greater regional cooperation and long-term planning." Launched in September 2011, with John Tory of CivicAction as the launch's [keynote speaker](#), the Report profiled data and stories in nine topic areas identified through research, a citizen survey and sector focus groups.
- **Strengthening the Capacity-Building of Dufferin's Not-for-Profit Sector** – Between 2010 and 2012, HCIA led a pilot project also involving the County of Dufferin, Community Living Dufferin and a number of area service clubs. The project allocated funds and hosted learning events aimed at building the capacity of, and encouraging greater innovation and collaboration within Dufferin's not-for-profit sector.

HCIA 2012–2013 Overall Impact	
Total funds & in-kind support secured for HCIA and its projects	\$ 85,725 (\$ 3,000 in kind)
Total number of volunteer hours mobilized	880+ hours total (55 active volunteers)
Total number of contacts in our database	1,332
	(a 10% increase over the previous year)