

# HALTON FOOD FOR THOUGHT FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

**LOCATION:** Various Schools in Halton Region

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

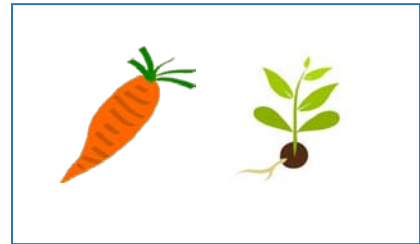
In 2008, Halton Food For Thought (HFFT), in partnership with Halton Region, ran a pilot Farm to School program. The goal was to get more locally grown fruits and vegetables into schools, using existing Student Nutrition Programs. From the initial pilot, Farm to School grew, and in the Fall of 2013 over \$5000 of local produce was brought into schools.

## HOW IT WORKS:

- Program runs for 8 weeks in the Fall (in some years it expanded to run longer).
- HFFT works with farmers to compile an order form of available local produce and then places orders on behalf of schools.
- Farmers deliver to a central hub and HFFT works with a partner organization to deliver food in a refrigerated truck to schools that are unable to pick-up.
- Schools get weekly activity sheets about the food system and featured produce.
- Yearly 'Farm Fresh Friday' event features local farmers visiting a school.

## CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME:

- Stable funding to maintain the program.
- Serving a large geographic area so ideally need a hub in each community to serve all schools and keep delivery costs manageable.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- In Fall 2013, local food was served in over 8000 meals in 29 schools.
- A variety of produce served, including apples, pears, sugar snap peas, cauliflower, broccoli, grape tomatoes and carrots.
- Farm Fresh Friday brought farmers into a school, helping students make the link between the local food and the food system.
- Farmers gained a new market, leading to a more self-sufficient food economy.