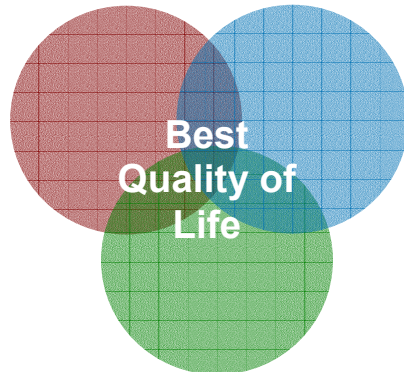


Headwaters Communities in Action strives to attain the best quality of life for those who live and work in the Headwaters area. We believe that by working together and mobilizing our collective assets, we will find new ways to strengthen our communities.

Our Strategic Focuses

Community Health

Strengthening our health and social services to reflect our communities' changing needs



Economic Prosperity

Ensuring a vibrant economy that offers sustainable wages and the opportunity for everyone to reach his or her potential

Environmental Well-being

Protecting and responsibly growing the use of our environmental assets

One of “*the most important magnets in attracting and keeping investment and business*” in today’s global economy is a community’s ability to bring people together to define the common good, create joint plans, and to identify strategies that benefit a wide range of people and organizations.

**Harvard Business Professor
Rosabeth Moss Kanter**

“individual rural communities often succumb to, or defy, their fate based on one intangible, but implacable factor:...If the business, professional and political classes of a small town work together, if they are prepared to take risks, and if they can convince the rest of the citizenry to take risks with them, then that community can tap into emerging technologies and alternative markets to rebrand and revitalize their town.” **Globe and Mail**

A Vision for Headwaters Communities in Action

Our communities will speak with one voice as we establish an integrated mechanism for social, economic and environmental planning in a way that respects historic continuity, maintains and protects the natural environment, coordinates and promotes services and establishes a sense of community for the residents in the Headwaters area, so that we can enhance and celebrate the prosperity, health and well-being of the diverse citizens of our communities.

Our History

In 2005, the vision of **Headwaters Communities in Action** was created by 54 community leaders who shared a commitment to enhancing the social prosperity of Dufferin County. A Steering Committee has hired part time staff, and organized volunteer working groups to move the vision into action. Over the past year, more than 300 individuals have shared their ideas through public forums about their priorities for community action. These ideas are being used to shape a community plan that will map out the path forward for improving the quality of life of our communities in the Headwaters area.

Imagine the Possibilities...

The following ideas have emerged as priorities in strengthening the communities in the Headwaters area from our discussions with community members, leaders and knowledgeable experts.

A Regional Planning Process

Imagine... Leaders from every sector working together to create a clear plan for our future which balances economic, social and environmental considerations in an integrated way.

Coordinated Local Fundraising

Imagine... Creating a permanent local endowment to fund strategic projects that strengthen the quality-of-life of our region.

A Resource to Enhance Organizational Capacity

Imagine... Readily available research and data about the Headwaters Region and our needs...a centralized resource that helps organizations access the information, skills and services they need to fulfill their mandates and sustain themselves.

A Community Convener

Imagine... Community leaders, knowledge experts and concerned citizens from across the region being brought together regularly to participate in facilitated conversations around important issues impacting the economic, social and environmental well-being of our region and identifying strategies and action plans to address them.

A Regional Trails Network

Imagine... A regional network of trails that provides walkers and cyclists with easy access to the natural beauty of the Headwaters Region, encourages physical activity and acts as an important magnet for tourism and recreation.

A Youth Summit

Imagine... Youth leaders being supported to engage youth from across the region in a process that encourages them to articulate their vision for the future and helps them to identify the barriers and resources to realizing it.

Best Practices on Affordable Housing

Imagine... Adequate, affordable housing being available to each and every individual and/or family in the region.

Citizen Education and Engagement

Imagine... Citizens being aware of, and engaged in, discussions about key issues related to the economic, social and environmental well-being of our region.

For more information or to get involved visit our web site at
www.headwaterscommunities.ca

Or call Sylvia Cheuy at (519) 940-3118