

DC Moves into the New Year

By Marni Walsh

The DC Moves initiative made great strides in 2016 bringing local Dufferin County agencies together and making it easier for Dufferin County residents to access human services.

Service agencies are working collaboratively through the DC Moves initiative and have started to cement the direction and focus of the collective, says Shirley Boxem, Project Lead for Headwaters Communities in Action (HCIA), a community-based social prosperity organization of which DC Moves is a sub-initiative.

We are well on our way to creating a 'Made in Dufferin' mindset surrounding the way we deliver services and supports to our community members, she says.

HCIA, founded in 2004, fosters leadership and action in support of a long-term vision of community well-being for the Headwaters Region.

The non-profit organization does this by facilitating citizen discussions on issues affecting the well-being of DC residents and by coordinating effective, cooperative responses to the issues.

Based on the achievements already made throughout this current year, the DC Moves Leadership Table anticipates that this momentum will continue into 2017 and beyond, says Ms. Boxem.

The Forums that were hosted in 2016 successfully coalesced a community of non-profit and human service agencies in Dufferin, says Ms. Boxem. The DC Moves community has spoken, shared and listened, and in 2017 will be moving forward in addressing the identified priorities of: community well-being, poverty reduction and resource sharing.

Another DC Moves accomplishment of 2016 included the launching of the 'My Dufferin' website in early December. Ms. Boxem says the new services directory is more modern and user-friendly, and includes search functionality and other new features to improve the ability to find services in the county.

She calls it a great resource for the residents of Dufferin and a helpful tool for DC Moves members.

DC Moves will be hosting its first community forum of 2017 on January 23. The forum will focus on further addressing DC Moves three priority pillars: Community Well-Being; Poverty Reduction; and Resource Sharing.

The meeting, facilitated by the County of Dufferin and Headwaters Communities in Action, will be held at Dufferin Child and Family Services, 655 Riddell Road, in Orangeville: 9 am -12 noon. For more details, visit: www.headwaterscommunities.org.