

March 23, 2012



## **HEALTH UNIT FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE OFFERS FREE FOOD SAFETY TRAINING**

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, with the support of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care is offering **FREE** food safety training between the months of April to June.

The goals of this blitz are to aid operators of food premises, food handlers and those seeking employment in the food industry in gaining access to up to date information on safe food handling strategies; compliance with applicable legislation; and achieving a certificate in safe food handling.

The Health Unit is attempting to reduce the cost, time and travel barriers to food establishments and to the local residents that would like to become certified food handlers. **The \$50.00 fee per person will be waived so attendance is FREE.** The Health Unit will be offering 6 courses in local communities including: **Brockville, Gananoque, Kemptville, Smiths Falls, Carleton Place, and Perth.** Two of the courses are offered on PD days to allow high school students the opportunity to attend.

It is expected that the community as a whole will benefit from this initiative. The food industry or volunteer sector provides jobs that reach into many sectors including tourism, institutional food service, food processing, retail, as well as community food programs. **“Well informed food handlers provide safer foods to the public, understand their responsibilities clearly and may improve the bottom line of a business,”** says Jane Lyster, Director of Community Health Protection for the Tri-County Area.

Participants will receive a package of course materials. Upon achieving a minimum of 70% on the post course exam, participants will receive a Food Safety Training Certificate that they may post in their place of employment. These certificates are accepted by all health units across the province and are valid for five years. Some areas require that food handlers have this training in order to work in a food premises.

Registration for this **no cost training blitz** is on a first come-first served basis. **Call today - registration fills up quickly.**

For more information on food safety, check the Health Unit website at [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org), or call the Health Unit at 613-345-5685 in Brockville, 613-283-2740 in Smiths Falls or the Health ACTION Line at 1-800-660-5853 and ask to speak to a public health inspector.

### **CALL TO REGISTER FOR THE FOLLOWING COURSES:**

Thursday, April 26, 2012	SMITHS FALLS	Health Unit office, 25 Johnston Street
Monday, April 30, 2012	BROCKVILLE	Health Unit office, 458 Laurier Blvd.
Monday, May 7, 2012	GANANOQUE	Lou Jeffries Arena
Monday, May 7, 2012	PERTH	Civitan Club
Friday, May 25, 2012	BROCKVILLE	Community Room, 1000 Islands Mall
Friday, May 25, 2012	SMITHS FALLS	Civitan Club
Monday, May 28, 2012	CARLETON PLACE	Community Centre
Monday, June 4, 2012	KEMPTVILLE	North Grenville Municipal Centre