## **A Hearty Winter Soup**

1½ Ibs lean ground beef
1 sweet onion, diced
28 oz diced or crushed tomatoes
4 carrots, diced
3 celery sticks, diced
½ c tomato paste

2 c water
32 oz beef broth
1 large bay leaf
½ tsp thyme
10 Tbsp pearl barley
pepper to taste

Brown meat & onions. Drain well. Add all other ingredients Simmer covered 2 hours.