



K-W Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year Awards Recognizes Outstanding Achievements in Waterloo Region

(Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada – October 11, 2011) – K-W Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year took time tonight to recognize and pay tribute to some outstanding women in the community. "We are proud of our partnership with the K-W Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year. It recognizes the amazing work and many contributions of the women of our community", said Mike Collins, General Manager of the Rogers Kitchener Radio Group.

At an awards ceremony at Waterloo Inn & Conference Centre, with the assistance of our MC's Susan Cook-Scheerer, Co-host of daytime on Rogers TV, and Tara Connors, mornings on CHYM 96.7, the following women were recognized for their outstanding contributions to this community:

Arts & Culture (sponsored by CHYM 96.7/570 News/KIX 106.7 FM) recognizes women for enriching the culture of our community through creation or promotion of the arts on a volunteer or professional basis.

Diane Eastham

Diane left her career as a Vice-Principal to follow the path she believed she was born to fulfill as an artist, author and teacher. She is a life-long learner and uses her skills to further develop her creative interests and those of others. Her determination and passion for the arts, as well as her contribution to the community through work and volunteerism, are an inspiration. Diane is not one to talk about her successes, but chooses to focus on nurturing the potential she perceives in others.

Community Service (sponsored by M&T Printing Group) recognizes women for generously volunteering time to programs and services that make our community a better place.

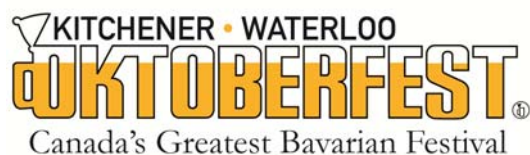
Kelly Meissner

Kelly is the voice for her two-year old daughter Kate, who in August 2010 was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome, a severe intellectual and physical disability, which is accompanied with sleep and seizure disorders. This diagnosis meant an uncertain future for the Meissner family. As a result of Kate's tragic diagnosis, Kelly founded a charitable organization called *Kate's Cause*. Kelly's strength and compassion make her the best advocate for her daughter Kate. Her desire to make the world a better place for children like Kate is admirable.

Entrepreneur (sponsored by Wilfrid Laurier School of Business & Economics) recognizes women for initiating and/or administering an enterprise or business.

Lisa Morell Kelly

Lisa graduated from the University of New Brunswick Law School in 1992 and articulated with a local law firm and was called to the bar in 1994. She funds a UNB entrance scholarship in



memory of her late father Friedhelm Morell, a successful local entrepreneur. Lisa ran a busy general practice for many years and in 2004 formed the Morell Kelly Law firm with her partner Bruce Kelly (now her husband). From a small beginning, Lisa is now the senior partner in this law firm with four offices and 35 employees and now restricts her practice to assisting people who have suffered injury. Lisa's firm has recovered tens of thousands of dollars for individuals who have been harmed.

Health & Wellness (sponsored by World Gym) recognizes women for promoting and helping others achieve and promote mental, physical or spiritual well-being in her career or community involvement.

Susan Lewis

Susan is an inspirational and dynamic woman with a long history of community involvement. Susan volunteered at the YMCA for 22 years, has been the chair of the Grand River Hospital F.A.C.E. Committee since 2007, is a Waterloo Regional Homes for Mental Health Board member and is the founding chair of the Minds in Motion KW Walking Classic. Susan is tireless in her pursuit to change the world and the lives of people and families living with mental illness. Her drive and leadership amazes those around her.

Lifetime Achievement (sponsored by Hacienda Sarria) recognizes women for being active in their community by sharing their heart, their time and their life experience.

Lorna van Mossel

Lorna and her husband Bert began Friendship Families in the 1970s, as a program that would pair refugee families with local families. Lorna's care of the vulnerable in our society and throughout the world has influenced many to be better able to empathize with those from different cultures and socio-economical backgrounds. Especially exemplary has been her dedication to the settlement and full integration of immigrants and refugees through her work. As an advocate, Lorna has worked tirelessly toward changing oppressive Government policies that hinder the most vulnerable in our community from full citizen participation. She has often shared her time, money, and her home with those in need.

Professional (sponsored by Rogers) recognizes women for dedicating themselves to the pursuit of excellence in her chosen career.

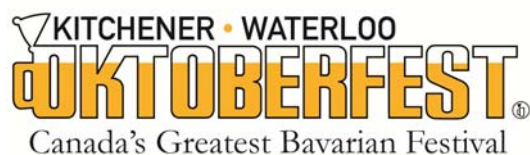
Sharon Bellows

Constable Sharon Bellows has been an officer with the Waterloo Regional Police Service since 2008. During the short time that Sharon has been policing, she has shown a great deal of courage, persistence and willingness to face danger. She takes pride in her work and has a genuine compassion for others. Sharon volunteers as the Platoon Representative for United Way and is a liaison for children and new immigrants at the Chandler-Mowat Community Centre, taking a special interest in youth.

Sports & Recreation (sponsored by Rogers TV) recognizes women for actively participating, coaching or volunteering in sports or recreation.

Natalie Stevanus

Natalie strives to constantly improve herself and take on new challenges. Natalie enjoys rhythmic gymnastics, downhill skiing, rock-climbing, canoeing, modeling and dancing. She previously



qualified in the provincial Special Olympics competitions for swimming and recently placed 3rd and 7th for figure skating in Ontario. She spends countless hours practicing with the Elmira Figure Skating Club during the fall and winter seasons, remembering her dance patterns. She has been swimming with the K-W Special Olympics program for several years. Natalie works five days a week as manager of Williams Fresh Café and still finds time to volunteer at numerous fundraising events. She has a genuine interest in others and demonstrates to “never judge a book by its cover.”

Young Adult (14 to 25) (sponsored by Rogers TV) recognizes young women for leading by example and being a role model to her peers.

Kelly Lovell

Through personal adversity, Kelly has developed a driving passion to motivate, encourage and enable others to act on their skills and interests, and to help others realize their own potential. A serious illness left her unable to continue an active lifestyle filled with horseback riding, competitive dance and modeling. Kelly began volunteering with Pride Stables to fill her high school requirements and as a way to continue to be around horses. She realized that in order for many youth to become engaged as volunteers, they needed to feel a connection between their own interests and passions and volunteer positions. As a result, Kelly created Passion 4 Progress, an initiative to improve the way young people access volunteer opportunities.

Residents of the Region were encouraged to nominate their choice for Women of the Year and were invited to enjoy this evening with these distinguished women.

Rogers TV, Cable 20, will televise the awards ceremony Sunday, October 16 at 5 PM. Please visit www.rogerstv.com for additional broadcast times.

About Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is a not-for-profit Bavarian festival founded in 1969 by a group of volunteers committed to contributing to the social and economic vitality of Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada twin cities with German heritage. Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival celebrates German heritage, food, music and festivities and is supported by more than 50 not-for-profit organizations. The festival is operated by eight year-round full-time staff, over 495 volunteers and 1,300 community and service club volunteers that stage the nine-day festival each October promoting a unique German cultural experience. As well as the economic boost the festival gives the local economy during the international festival, over \$1.5 million is raised each year by the not-for-profit organizations associated with Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest, one of the top three most recognized event brands in Canada.

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