



## Thanksgiving Weekend in Kitchener-Waterloo

- Thanksgiving Day Parade
  - KIDtoberfest is Back
  - Inaugural DOGtoberfest
- Willkommen Platz and King Street Vendor Market
  - Brand New Merchandise now on sale!

**August 23, 2023 – KITCHENER, ON** – Your Thanksgiving weekend just got a whole lot more exciting! Mark your calendars to attend one or all of these fantastic events.

### [Thanksgiving Day Parade](#)

The annual [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#) Thanksgiving Day Parade is a must-see event for the whole family! With lots of new floats, inflatables and bands, the parade will be bigger and better than ever! We're so excited that we want to SHOUT THIS FROM THE ROOFTOPS!

**Date/Times:** The parade starts at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at the corner of Weber Street East and Frederick Street in Kitchener and will travel up Weber Street to finish at the Bridgeport Plaza in Waterloo around 10:00 a.m. Catch the live stream online courtesy of [Piller's Fine Foods](#).

**Parade Bleachers:** located at Weber Street West at Queen Street North in Kitchener, limited seating is available at \$8 +HST. Make sure to grab your tickets now and get the best seat in the haus. Available at [Oktoberfest.ca/tickets](#)

**Food Drive:** The annual Onkel Hans Food Drive will be collecting monetary donations and non-perishable food items in support of [The Food Bank of Waterloo Region](#) right before the parade begins.

Dress for the weather! The parade runs rain or shine.

### [KIDtoberfest](#) presented by [Tim Hortons](#)

Back by popular demand! Located at THEMUSEUM, KIDtoberfest is perfect for families with kids (or folks who are kids at heart!). The event features traditional music and dancing, curriculum-based learning stations and guided activities created in partnership with various local arts organizations. Plus, they'll experience tonnes of fun Oktoberfest entertainment!

**Date/Times:** Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7 from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

#### **Admission:**

- Children ages 2 – 10 – \$12.95 (includes one fun food pass and loot bag!)
- General Admission 11+ – \$12.95
- Children under 2 – complimentary

\*All passes include access to explore THEMUSEUM exhibit!

#### **Get the KIDtoberfest VIP Experience:** Onkel Hans and Friends

Looking for a more intimate Oktoberfest experience for the family? Learn to do the chicken dance with Onkel Hans, enjoy special character encounters with local mascots, princesses and superheroes, plus other fun surprises available only at the VIP event.

**VIP Dates/Times:** Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8 from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. (then stay and play!)

#### **VIP Admission:**

- Children ages 2 – 10 – \$18.95 (includes one fun food pass and VIP loot bag!)

- General Admission 11+ – \$18.95
- Children under 2 – complimentary
- Limited number of VIP tickets available

KIDtoberfest tickets available at [Oktoberfest.ca/tickets](https://oktoberfest.ca/tickets)

### **DOGtoberfest presented by Nutram Pet Products**

You heard it right – our four-legged besties now have their own Oktoberfest event! In partnership with [Dog Friendly K-W](#) and supported by [Global Pet Food](#), dogs and their people are invited to take part in trick training advice, pack walks, Sniffscape courses, contests and other furry shenanigans! Pssst...it's also free to attend!

**Dates/Times:** Saturday, October 7 from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** Carl Zehr Square (Kitchener City Hall)

### **Willkommen Platz and King Street Vendor Market**

Be Bavarian with us! From Friday, October 6 to Sunday, October 8 you're invited to join us as Downtown Kitchener transforms into a bustling Bavarian village like you've never seen before – along King Street from Queen Street to City Hall, and down Gaukel Street to the Willkommen Platz Craft Biergarten in the Gaukel Block at 44 Gaukel Street. Raise your stein in the biergarten, savour authentic German cuisine from one of our food vendors, shop our local vendor market, or sing along in front of the stage at one of our many live performances – Oktoberfest is bringing the best of it to DTK!

**Biergarten Dates/Times:** Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7 from noon until 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 8 from noon until 6:00 p.m.

**Vendor Market Dates/Times:** Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7 from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

### **Roll out the Barrel with the latest Fest-Wear and 2023 Pin!**

Make sure you are fest-ready with the latest Oktoberfest gear! Check out the new line of Oktoberfest souvenirs, apparel and swag including the limited edition 2023 pin design, plus some cute outfits for the kids! [Get fest ready!](#)

PHOTOS ATTACHED: Events posters, Oktoberfest pup and 2023 Oktoberfest pin.

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### **About Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest**

The first Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest was celebrated in 1969 at Concordia Club in Kitchener, organized by a group of dedicated founders. The keg was tapped and history was made. Since then, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest has developed its own traditions, becoming one of the largest Bavarian festivals outside of Germany. Hundreds of thousands of visitors celebrate annually in our Festhallen, at local restaurants and by attending one of our several family and cultural events, including the annual Willkommen Platz and the Thanksgiving Day Parade. More than just biergartens, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is committed to supporting the cultural, economic and social vitality of Waterloo Region, bringing millions of dollars in economic benefit to the region each year. Through the Oktoberfest Cares initiative, the festival supports local charities and other not-for-profit organizations, partners with over 50 local hospitality businesses, and raises funds to donate meals to the Waterloo Region Food Bank through the Onkel Hans Food Drive. For more information visit [oktoberfest.ca](https://oktoberfest.ca).

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