



2023 Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade Grand Marshals

- **Mike Farwell and Paul Fixter Announced as Grand Marshals**
 - **Onkel Hans Drops the Puck on October 6**
 - **New Stuff a Bus Event for Onkel Hans Food Drive**

October 4, 2023 – KITCHENER, ON – [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#) is pleased to announce the 2023 Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade Grand Marshals, Mike Farwell and Paul Fixter. Together they are the voices of the [Kitchener Rangers](#).

Farwell, a well-known radio broadcaster, started as the colour commentator for the team back in 2010 alongside legendary Don Cameron, later taking over as the main play-by-play announcer. "Having attended the Oktoberfest parade almost every year since I was a kid, and knowing how important this festival is to our community, it's hard for me to imagine a higher honour than being asked to join Paul as a Grand Marshal, and to enjoy the parade along with my favourite hockey team. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on the 9th!" says Mike.

Fixter joined the broadcasting booth at the start of this year's season. No stranger to hockey, Paul was an Assistant Coach winning two Stanley Cups with the Colorado Avalanche, (1995-2001), former Assistant and Head Coach of the Hershey Bears, Associate Coach and Assistant General Manager of the Kitchener Rangers (2009-2013), General Manager and Head Coach of the Sudbury Wolves and his last stop in Coaching was with the Rochester Americans as an Assistant Coach. "As a longtime, proud Kitchener native, it is an honour and privilege to serve as one of the 2023 Grand Parade Marshals," shares Paul.

The parade starts at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, October 9th – running down Weber Street from Frederick Street in Kitchener to Bridgeport Road in Waterloo. Watch for the Grand Marshals being transported in a horse drawn carriage alongside many of the current Kitchener Rangers players, Tex and the team's iconic inflatable. For those not able to attend in person, a live streaming of the parade can be viewed on CTV News Kitchener's website: <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/>

Puck Drop with Onkel Hans

Whether you'll be in attendance at the Kitchener Auditorium or watching from home, be sure to tune in on Friday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. as Onkel Hans drops the puck at the Rangers game against the Owen Sound Attack.

Stuff a Bus for the [Onkel Hans Food Drive](#)

Join Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest, the Kitchener Rangers and [Grand River Transit](#) on Saturday, October 14th as they "stuff a bus" in support of the [Food Bank of Waterloo Region](#). Drop off your nonperishable food items or donations between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the Laurentian Zehrs located at 750 Ottawa Street South in Kitchener. Onsite entertainment with Oktoberfest's Wunderwagen for all to enjoy.

PHOTO: Mike Farwell and Paul Fixter

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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.

About The [Kitchener Rangers](#)

The Kitchener Rangers are a major junior ice hockey team based in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. They are members of the Midwest Division of the Western Conference of the Ontario Hockey League. The Rangers have won the J. Ross Robertson Cup as OHL champions in 1981, 1982, 2003 and 2008, appeared in six Memorial Cups (1981, 1982, 1984, 1990, 2003 & 2008), and are two-time Memorial Cup champions (1982, 2003). To this day there is not one, lone “owner” of the club; instead, a 39-person Board of Directors is elected by the club’s season ticket members each year to act as the “trustees” of the storied franchise. This Board of Directors is comprised entirely and only of Kitchener Rangers’ season ticket members. Over the years the Club has made numerous contributions to community groups, local minor hockey associations, supported events, fundraising programs and provided unique hockey experiences to members of our community. Over 180 players and coaches have gone on to serve in the NHL, with five Rangers alumni inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

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