



Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Gets a Visit from the Prime Minister

October 6, 2023 – KITCHENER, ON – [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#) and the [City of Kitchener](#) are pleased to welcome Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who stopped in for a visit at the Willkommen Platz in downtown Kitchener this afternoon.

“Oktoberfest brings people together. As one of the largest Oktoberfest celebrations outside Germany, it’s clear that the community here in Kitchener-Waterloo is strong and I am happy to be here celebrating with them once again. Here’s to another 55 years!” – Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.

The Prime Minister is planning to spend some time visiting with the many families, friends and individuals shopping at the Bavarian Vendor market, including Tante Frieda’s Pumpkin Patch happening along King Street, and others enjoying live entertainment and activities at the Gaukel Block, all part of Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest’s new and improved [Willkommen Platz](#).

“Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is excited to welcome Prime Minister Trudeau back to our Festival,” shared Allan Cayenne, Festival President. “It was seven years ago that he joined us for our 48th celebration and 52 years ago that his father made a similar visit. We are deeply honoured that he has continued with this family tradition.”

“A giant “Willkommen” to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for once again coming to visit Kitchener during K-W Oktoberfest,” said Kitchener Mayor Berry Urbanovic. “The Bavarian spirit of “Gemutlichkeit” comes alive during this time of year in our community and as we welcome people from far and wide, we are pleased that Canada’s Prime Minister has taken time to join us for some of the fun and festivities kicking off this Thanksgiving Day weekend!”

Other Festival Happenings

Be sure to check out the live entertainment, bands, buskers, delicious food options, dancers and more at the Willkommen Platz today through Sunday. Our Festhallen partners are open and ready to welcome folks for a traditional Bavarian experience. [KIDtoberfest](#) runs until Sunday at THEMUSEUM and [DOGtoberfest](#) happens Saturday and Sunday at Carl Zehr Square. The annual [Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade](#) is coming up on Monday, October 9th – a time honoured custom for many families!

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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 [City of Kitchener](#)

The City of Kitchener is fast-growing city about one hour west-southwest of Toronto with a population of more than 270,000 people. Our diverse and vibrant city is home to top education institutions, a vibrant arts and entertainment scene and a leading-edge technology sector. Kitchener is the largest city in Waterloo Region, the anchor of Canada’s Innovation Corridor, with a startup ecosystem second only to Silicon Valley. Kitchener is an innovative, caring and

vibrant city. We have a proud history of community-building – inspiring and supporting people to work together to create a city that feels like home for everyone.

Media Contacts:

Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director
Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest
519-616-0793 or tracy@oktoberfest.ca

Bethany Rowland, Director of Communications
City of Kitchener
[519-741-2345](tel:519-741-2345) or bethany.rowland@kitchener.ca