

**MEDIA RELEASE
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Nominations are Open for the 2024 Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year Awards

- **New Skilled Trades Category**

January 23, 2024 – KITCHENER, ON – [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#) is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the 2024 [Rogers Women of the Year](#) awards. The annual ceremony will take place on the evening of Thursday, May 23rd.

Close to 100 nominations were submitted in 2023 – the most ever received – recognizing outstanding women in 11 award categories. This year a new Skilled Trades category is being added to the mix.

“Since 1975, K-W Oktoberfest has proudly provided a platform to honour the incredible women in our community,” shares Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director. “Identifying, celebrating and increasing visibility of women’s achievements helps build equality – which is what this event is all about.”

Community members are encouraged to nominate deserving women in one of the 12 Women of the Year categories. Nominees must reside, work, volunteer or study within Waterloo Region. They can be individuals who are involved in the community, are an inspiration to others, motivate and/or embrace change. Nominees can also be folks who demonstrate initiative, recognize and confirm success in others, or who touch people’s lives in quiet and compassionate ways. The nomination deadline is 4:00 p.m. on March 31, 2024.

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year is for all women. As in the past, nominations and nominees are inclusive of all women, non-binary, transgender, two-spirited, women of all classes, races, sexualities, ableness and identities.

2024 Award Categories:

Arts & Culture recognizes women for enriching the culture of our community through the creation or promotion of the arts on a volunteer or professional basis.

Community Service recognizes women for generously volunteering their time to programs and services that make our community a better place.

Entrepreneur – Under 40 Years Old and 40+ Years Old (two award categories) recognizes women for initiating and/or administering an enterprise or business.

Group Achievement recognizes achievements by a group of women that impact and/or improve our community or society.

Health & Wellness recognizes women for promoting and helping others achieve and promote mental, physical or spiritual well-being in their careers or community involvement.

Lifetime Achievement recognizes women for being role models, mentors and/or advocates for positive and social change throughout their lifetime.

Professional – Under 40 Years Old and 40+ Years Old (two award categories) recognizes women for dedicating themselves to the pursuit of excellence in their chosen careers.

Skilled Trades (New in 2024!) recognizes women for exceptional contributions to the advancement and empowerment of women in the trades sector.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math recognizes women for outstanding advancement to the field of STEM.

Young Adult (14 to 23) recognizes women for leading by example and being a role model to their peers.

Everything regarding the Women of the Year nomination process, including the [form](#), can be found [HERE](#).

The Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year Awards are proudly supported by [Rogers](#), [Rogers TV](#), [CHYM 96.7](#), [Country 106.7](#), [CityNews 570](#) and [Sherwood Events](#). To become a sponsor, event vendor or to join the volunteer committee, visit womenoftheyear.ca/get-involved/.

Photo enclosed of award recipients at the 2023 Women of the Year gala.

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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.

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