



## **Thanksgiving Weekend in Kitchener-Waterloo**

- **Danny Michel joins the Willkommen Platz Entertainment Lineup**
  - **King Street Bavarian Vendor Market**
  - **KIDtoberfest and DOGtoberfest are Back**
- **Thanksgiving Day Parade & Onkel Hans Food Drive**
  - **Get Your 2024 Merch!**

**September 17, 2024 – KITCHENER, ON** – Thanks to [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#), your Thanksgiving weekend just got a whole lot more exciting! Mark your calendars to attend one or all these fantastic, FREE events.

### **[Willkommen Platz](#) and the King Street Bavarian Vendor Market**

Be Bavarian with us! From Friday, October 11 to Sunday, October 13 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 into City Hall and down at the Gaukel Block at (Gaukel Street). Raise your stein in our large, open air biergarten, savour authentic German cuisine from one of our many food vendors, shop at the market and our new [Hans Haus pop-up shop](#) beside City Hall or sing along in front of the stage at one of our many live performances including Friday night headliner [Danny Michel](#) (announced today!). K-W Oktoberfest is bringing the heart of the Festival to DTK! And it's all FREE this year!

**Official Keg Tapping:** Friday, October 11 at noon at Carl Zehr Square

**Biergarten Dates/Times:** Friday, October 11, Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13 from 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

**Vendor Market Dates/Times:** Friday, October 11, Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13 from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

A complete list of entertainment, including a mix of traditional Bavarian and mainstream music such as [Walter Ostanek](#) or Saturday's headliner [My Son the Hurricane](#) can be found [HERE](#). Don't forget to don your cowboy boots along with your lederhosen for Oktoberfest Goes County on Sunday night with headliner [Nate Haller](#).

### **[KIDtoberfest](#) at the Willkommen Platz presented by [Tim Hortons](#)**

Back by popular demand and in a new location inside the Kitchener City Hall rotunda, KIDtoberfest is perfect for families with children (or folks who are kids at heart!). The three-day, FREE event features traditional music and dancing, Bavarian activities and performances by many family favourites!

**Date/Times:** Friday, October 11 (PD Day), Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13 from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

### **[DOGtoberfest](#) at the Willkommen Platz presented by [Nutram Pet Products](#)**

You heard it right – our four-legged besties have their own Oktoberfest event and it's happening at the Gaukel Block! 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, Mr. & Mrs. Dogtoberfest crownings, contests and other furry shenanigans! Pssst...it's also FREE to attend!

**Dates/Times:** Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13 from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

### **[Thanksgiving Day Parade](#)**

The annual Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade is a must-attend 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/NEW Time:** The parade starts at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, October 14<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 11:30 a.m. Catch the live stream online courtesy of [Piller's Fine Foods](#) and [CTV Kitchener](#).

**Parade Bleachers:** Located at Weber Street West at Queen Street North in Kitchener, limited seating is available at \$10 +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.

### **Roll out the Barrel with the latest Fest-Wear and 2024 Pin!**

Make sure you check out our latest Oktoberfest gear! Shop [online](#) or at the [Hans Haus](#) pop-up for Oktoberfest souvenirs, apparel and swag including the limited edition 2024 pin design, plus some cute outfits for the kids! [Get fest ready!](#)

**Want to celebrate Oktoberfest with our Festhallen partners?** Tickets can be purchased [HERE](#).

PHOTOS ATTACHED: WILLKOMMEN PLATZ EVENT POSTERS, 2023 PARADE PHOTOS, DANNY MICHEL.

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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. Tens of thousands of visitors celebrate annually in our Festhallen, at local restaurants and by attending one of our many family and cultural events. 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. *Oktoberfest Cares* provides funding for charitable partners and supports Festival initiatives that enrich our community such as the Onkel Hans Food Drive and keep admission costs low or free for favourites including the Women of the Year celebration and family-friendly events like KIDtoberfest, Thanksgiving Day Parade and Christkinderfest. For more information visit [www.oktoberfest.ca](#).

### **About [Willkommen Platz](#)**

Hosted by K-W Oktoberfest, Willkommen Platz is a three-day celebration that brings together the best Bavarian food, beer, music and spirit of Gemütlichkeit. Along with the official keg tapping, local vendor market, KIDtoberfest and DOGtoberfest, Willkommen Platz also includes live entertainment on two stages, polka bands, German dancing, buskers, kids' entertainers, delicious Bavarian culinary offerings, German and craft beers, Bavarian-themed activities and more. Raise and stein and sing Ein Prosit with us this year during the Thanksgiving weekend October 11 – 13 at Carl Zehr Square and King Street in downtown Kitchener, along with additional programming at the Gaukel Block. New this year, admission will be free for all Willkommen Platz entertainment.

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