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## **Nominations are Open for the 50<sup>th</sup> Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year Awards**

- **Two New Award Categories**
- **Nomination Deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**January 28, 2025 – KITCHENER, ON** – [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#) (KWO) is thrilled to announce that nominations are now open for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Rogers Women of the Year](#) awards. The annual celebration will take place on the evening of Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

“Since 1975, K-W Oktoberfest has proudly provided a platform to honour the incredible women in our community,” shares Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director. “For half a century, this event has been pivotal in recognizing and celebrating women's accomplishments, fostering equality and inspiring future generations in our Region.”

Last year Women of the Year paid tribute to an incredible 123 nominees, including the first-ever contenders in the inaugural Skilled Trades category. This year, KWO is excited to introduce two new categories: Educator and Rising Star (Under 40).

Community members are encouraged to nominate deserving women in any 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, inspire others, motivate and/or embrace change. Nominees can also be those who demonstrate initiative, recognize and confirm success in others, or touch people's lives in quiet and compassionate ways. **The nomination deadline is 4:00 p.m. on March 31, 2025.**

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, abilities and identities.

### **[2025 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.

**Educator** (*new for 2025!*) recognizes women for empowering individuals and strengthening our community through outstanding contributions to education and lifelong learning.

**Entrepreneur (40+ Years Old)** 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 (40+ Years Old)** recognizes women for dedicating themselves to the pursuit of excellence in their chosen careers.

**Rising Star (Under 40 Years Old)** (*new for 2025!*) recognizes women for demonstrating exceptional leadership potential and innovation while achieving significant professional and entrepreneurial accomplishments early in their career.

**Skilled Trades** 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 or to join the volunteer committee, visit [womenoftheyear.ca/get-involved/](http://womenoftheyear.ca/get-involved/).

*Photo enclosed of award recipients at the 2024 Women of the Year Awards.*

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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 the Willkommen Platz. For more information visit [www.oktoberfest.ca](http://www.oktoberfest.ca).

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