



## **K-W Oktoberfest a Winner at the FEO Awards**

- **Top 100 Festival Award Winner**
- **Innovation Award Winner**
- **Bingeman's KoolHaus a Winner**

**February 27, 2025 – KITCHENER, ON** – [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#) (KWO) is proud to announce that it has been named a **2025 Top 100 Festival and Event** by Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO). In addition to this recognition, K-W Oktoberfest also received the coveted **Innovation Award** for its expanded outreach and awareness efforts in Toronto and the GTA, coinciding with the project launch of the LederGOsen Line – a dedicated GO Transit service, in partnership with [Metrolinx](#) and [Explore Waterloo Region](#), that brought festivalgoers from Toronto directly to the heart of the Festival.

The official announcements took place on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> during FEO's Awards Gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kitchener, as part of their 2025 "SYNERGY" Conference.

"We are deeply honoured to receive these two prestigious awards," shares Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director of K-W Oktoberfest. "Our Festival has been an important tourism contributor to Waterloo Region for almost 57 years. The success of our GTA outreach project and the LederGOsen Line pilot reflects our dedication to expanding the Region's reach across Ontario, in this case opening doors to make it easier for guests along the Toronto – K-W corridor to experience our unique cultural experiences."

Also recognized as a **2025 Top 100 Festival and Event** with FEO was K-W Oktoberfest Festhallen partner [Bingemans Koolhaus](#).

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest continues to attract tens of thousands of visitors each year with its authentic Bavarian entertainment, cultural experiences and community-focused Oktoberfest Cares initiatives including the Willkommen Platz, KIDtoberfest and beloved Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Adds Van Kalsbeek, "This recognition would not be possible without support from our amazing volunteers, staff, partners and sponsors. Danke Schön!"

Photos enclosed: FEO Award banners, 2024 Willkommen Platz, KWO representatives accepting the Innovation Award.

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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, the Willkommen Platz and the Thanksgiving Day Parade. For more information visit [www.oktoberfest.ca](http://www.oktoberfest.ca).

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