

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Official 2026 Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Ticket Launch

- Festhallen Tickets on Sale
- Willkommen Platz Headliners Announced
- 2026 Oktoberfest Pin Now Available
- Mass Chicken Dance Back Again

May 14, 2026 – KITCHENER, ON – Accordion music drifts through the air as cold beer steins stand ready for the first notes of *Ein Prosit*. Old friendships are rekindled as everyone gathers to *Be Bavarian* once again. [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#) (KWO) tickets are now on sale for the 58th annual cultural festival.

Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival is set to return with four fun-filled, "oom-pah-pah" weekends from **Friday, September 25th to Saturday, October 17th** in Festhallen venues across the Region including [Hubertushaus](#) in Mannheim, [Alpine Club](#) in Kitchener, [Schwabens Club](#) in Breslau and [Concordia Club](#) in Kitchener with additional events and activations to be announced in the coming weeks.

Returning to Downtown Kitchener on Thanksgiving weekend, [Willkommen Platz](#) is a free, family-friendly celebration taking place in Carl Zehr Square, at Kitchener City Hall, along King Street and at the Gaukel Block. Running from **Friday, October 9th to Sunday, October 11th**, the event also features [KIDtoberfest](#) and DOGtoberfest as well as the second annual [Sticks & Steins](#) and [Hockey with Hans](#) road hockey tournaments.

At the Platz, festival-goers can enjoy traditional Bavarian entertainment, a lively biergarten and standout performances on the [Circle K Stage](#) all weekend long. The [Transylvania Club](#) will also be onsite with themed activations throughout the weekend.

Daytime programming will include Polka King [Walter Ostanek](#), [Weiss Blau](#) Band, buskers, accordionists, children's activities and more family-friendly entertainment. In the evenings, audiences can catch alternative rock and hip-hop favourite [Bran Van 3000](#) with legendary punk rocker [Bif Naked](#) on October 9th and iconic rock legend [Lee Aaron](#) on October 10th. Oktoberfest Goes Country is making a return on the 11th with more details to be announced.

"Plans for a truly *Wunderbar* Festival are well underway and we can't wait for the community to be part of it," says KWO Executive Director Tracy Van Kalsbeek. "From our amazing Festhallen to the many Oktoberfest experiences across the Region, we're ready to share our unique spirit of Gemütlichkeit – featuring great music, great food and authentic Bavarian hospitality – with the hundreds of thousands of guests who will celebrate with us this year."

Festhallen tickets are limited and often sell out in advance. Visit [oktoberfest.ca/tickets](#) to learn more about Festival venues and [events](#) and to buy your tickets today!

2026 Oktoberfest Pin Now Available

K-W Oktoberfest merchandise – including the newly released 2026 limited-edition pin, created in tribute to Dr. Jack Bishop, one of K-W Oktoberfest's founders who passed away earlier this year – is available online at [oktoberfest.ca](#). To purchase, click [Shop Now](#).

Kick Things Off with a Chicken Dance at the Market – You're Invited!

Back again by popular demand! Join us for a Bavarian-filled, fun kick off to our 2026 ticket launch on Saturday, May 16th from 10:00 am until noon at the [St. Jacob's Market](#) as we band together for a chicken dance celebration! Dust off your lederhosen and dirndls and be prepared and "vogeltanz" to the sound of the accordion! This is a family friendly event, so please bring your kids to join the fun! Feel free to invite your friends, extended family members and even your neighbour from down the street!! We dance at 11:00 am so meet us at the market's outdoor food court at 10:45 am for the official warm up.

PHOTOS ENCLOSED: FESTHALLEN FESTIVITIES, BIF NAKED, LEE AARON, 2026 OKTOBERFEST PIN.

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, Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Willkommen Platz. For more information visit www.oktoberfest.ca.

Media Contact:

Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest

519-616-0793 or tracy@oktoberfest.ca