MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Warns Vendors of Fraudulent Emails and Social Media

August 19, 2026 – KITCHENER, ON – Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest (KWO) is warning vendors, partners and members of the Oktoberfest community about fraudulent emails, Instagram and Facebook pages impersonating KWO and members of the KWO team.

KWO has received reports of suspicious communications from individuals claiming to represent the organization or members of its team. These communications may attempt to approve vendor applications, request payment and credit card information or other personal or business information.

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is not affiliated with these communications or accounts.

To help protect vendors and partners, KWO reminds the community that:

- KWO will **never request credit card numbers through email**.
- All official invoices and payment-related communications will come directly from an official **@oktoberfest.ca** email address.

Anyone who receives a suspicious email, Facebook message or other communication claiming to be from KWO is encouraged **not to send payment or provide credit card, personal or business information**. Recipients should also avoid clicking suspicious links, opening unexpected attachments or responding to the sender.

If there is any uncertainty about whether a communication is legitimate, vendors and partners are encouraged to contact KWO directly at **info@oktoberfest.ca** before taking any action.

KWO is actively monitoring the situation and appreciates the vendors, partners and community members who have brought suspicious communications to the organization's attention.

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 Waterloo Region's Women's Expo or family-friendly events like KIDtoberfest, 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