MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2026 Willkommen Platz Programming and Entertainment Line Up

- **Official Keg Tapping**
- **Headliners Bif Naked, Lee Aaron and Robyn Ottolini**
- **King Street Bavarian Vendor Market**
- **KIDtoberfest and DOGtoberfest Programming**
- **New Fest-Wear and 2026 Oktoberfest Pin**

September 8, 2026 – KITCHENER, ON – It's that time of year again… Oktoberfest, Oktoberfest! Thanks to Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest, your Thanksgiving weekend will be another one for the books! Mark your calendars to attend one or all these fantastic, FREE events.

Willkommen Platz and the Bavarian Vendor Market

Be Bavarian with us! From Friday, October 9 to Sunday, October 11 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. Raise your stein in our large, open air biergarten, savour authentic German cuisine from one of our many food vendors, shop at the vendor market and our returning Hans Haus pop-up shop beside City Hall or sing along in front of the Circle K stage at one of our many live performances including Friday night headliner Bif Naked and Saturday night headliner Lee Aaron. K-W Oktoberfest is bringing the heart of the Festival to DTK! And it's all FREE again this year!

Official Keg Tapping: Friday, October 9, starting at noon at Carl Zehr Square with the Golden Keys.

Biergarten Dates/Times: Friday, October 9, Saturday, October 10 from 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 11 from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

King St. and Gaukel Block Vendor Market Dates/Times: Friday, October 9, Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11 from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Inside Vendors at City Hall will run from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily.

A complete list of entertainment, including a mix of traditional Bavarian tunes from the likes of Walter Ostanek as well as openers like Golden Keys and Weiss Blau Band, can be found HERE. Don't forget to don your cowboy boots along with your lederhosen and dirndls for *Oktoberfest Goes County* on Sunday night with headliner Robyn Ottolini.

KIDtoberfest at the Willkommen Platz presented by Tim Hortons

Back by popular demand and located 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 9, Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

DOGtoberfest celebrating all things dogs!

Join us for a tail-wagging day of fun featuring a vibrant marketplace filled with local dog-friendly and dog-focused businesses, exciting competitions, a ceremonial keg tapping and maybe even a few special guests. Whether you're a proud dog parent or simply a dog lover, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Bring your furry friend and head to the Gaukel Block at 44 Gaukel Street for a paws-itively unforgettable day with the community.

Roll out the Barrel with the latest Fest-Wear and 2026 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 2026 pin design, plus some cute outfits for the kids! Get fest ready!

Want to celebrate K-W Oktoberfest with our Festhallen partners? Tickets can be purchased HERE.

PHOTOS ATTACHED: 2026 WILLKOMMEN PLATZ HEADLINERS, 2026 PIN.

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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 Waterloo Region Women's Expo and Women of the Year celebration as well as family-friendly events like KIDtoberfest, Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Willkommen Platz. For more information visit 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 biers, Bavarian-themed activities and more. Raise and stein and sing Ein Prosit with us this year during the Thanksgiving weekend October 9 – 11 at Carl Zehr Square and King Street in downtown Kitchener, along with additional programming at the Gaukel Block. Admission is free for all Willkommen Platz entertainment.

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