



**K-W Oktoberfest Inc. welcomes Tim Beckett
as new President for 2019-2020 Festivals at the
Annual General Meeting last night.**



(Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada – March 5, 2019) – Tim Beckett, the newly inaugurated President of K-W Oktoberfest Inc., began his term by addressing an audience of board members, volunteers, city officials and community partners at the Annual General Meeting held at the Schwaben Club in Kitchener.

During the Annual General Meeting, outgoing president Margo Jones reviewed the highlights of the 50th annual Festival and officially handed over the reins to Tim Beckett, who ushered in the 2019 Board of Directors. Mr. Beckett then outlined his vision for the coming year of Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival....

"Currently we are in need of a reset, to ensure that the festival remains a community highlight for the next 50 years. We must restore Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest as the destination festival, ensuring that we can attract fest-goers locally, regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally. We are Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival and there is no reason we can't be seen as Canada's Greatest Festival."

The new President of Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest emphasized the need for strong partnerships to ensure success of the festival for the future. It includes partnerships with;

- 1) Municipal Governments, ensuring vibrant downtown centres celebrating and embracing Bavarian culture both throughout the festival, and all year long.
- 2) Festhallen partners and local service organizations, continuing to work together, to provide the ultimate Oktoberfest experience, and that together we are better and stronger.
- 3) Volunteers, our most valuable asset. The success of the festival each year is because of the contributions of hundreds of volunteers. We need to continue to provide excellent opportunities and compelling reasons to ensure we have a strong volunteer base.

The Annual General Meeting also included Alfred Lowrick's Executive Director report, which outlined what he would like to see in the upcoming year:

"We look forward to building even stronger relationships with our civic stakeholders, sponsors, Festhallen partners, our volunteers, chairs, board members...and we will always welcome feedback and input on how you think we can serve you better."

Another important piece of business at the Annual General Meeting was the appointment of a 1st Vice President. Past President Harry Vogt revealed to those in attendance that current 2nd Vice President Scott Henderson has been appointed 1st Vice President.

In closing, President Tim Beckett reminded everyone that the dates for the 2019 Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Festival are **October 11-19, 2019**.

About Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival. The not-for-profit organization was founded in 1969 by a group of volunteers committed to contributing to the social and economic vitality of Kitchener and Waterloo, Canada. Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest annually provides \$21.8 million of economic benefit to the community, while not-for-profit organizations associated with the festival raise funds each year for their causes. Hosted in the twin cities because of the strong German heritage, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest celebrates German food, music, fashion, and more! The nine-day festival runs every October and is operated by six year-round full-time staff, over 450 volunteers, and 1,300 community and service club volunteers. Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is one of the top three most recognized event brands in Canada. For more information visit www.oktoberfest.ca.

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