



**K-W Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year Awards Recognizes Outstanding Achievements in Waterloo Region**

(Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada – October 9, 2012) – K-W Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year took time tonight to recognize and pay tribute to some outstanding women in the community. "We are proud of our partnership with the K-W Oktoberfest Rogers Women of the Year. It recognizes the amazing work and many contributions of the women of our community", said Mike Collins, General Manager of the Rogers Kitchener Radio Group.

At an awards ceremony at the Waterloo Inn & Conference Centre, with the assistance of our Masters of Ceremonies Susan Cook-Scheerer, Co-host of Daytime on Rogers TV, and Tara Connors, mornings on CHYM 96.7, the following women were recognized for their outstanding contributions to this community:

**Arts & Culture** (sponsored by CHYM 96.7/570 News/KIX 106.7 FM) recognizes women for enriching the culture of our community through creation or promotion of the arts on a volunteer or professional basis.

**Brooke Myers**

A lifelong dancer, Brooke saw the impact that dance and dedicated teachers can have on young people and so decided to open the doors of Dance Adventure. Brooke was recognized as one of the KW Record's Top 40 Under 40 and has been presented with numerous awards from local competitions and dance festivals for her choreography and dance productions. Brooke has created, through her personality, passion and love of dance, an inspiring place to support students through their adventure in dance.

**Community Service** (sponsored by Rogers TV) recognizes women for generously volunteering time to programs and services that make our community a better place.

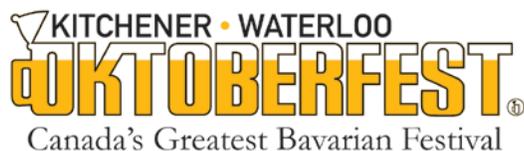
**Paulet Biedermann**

Paulet Biedermann has given thousands of volunteer hours over the past 32 years to individuals in prison, crisis shelters, group homes for mentally ill, schools, festivals, the AIDS Committee of Waterloo Region, churches and community groups. Paulet immigrated to Canada from Jamaica in 1980 without a high school education, but today she is college and university educated. She is a published author and motivational speaker, and recently formed the Youth Development Foundation which raises funds for sexually abused children and pregnant teens.

**Entrepreneur** (sponsored by Wilfrid Laurier School of Business & Economics) recognizes women for initiating and/or administering an enterprise or business.

**Yvonne Zensner**

Years ago, when a friend suggested she take a cake-decorating class, Yvonne Zensner's first



reaction was one of resistance. She had always been artistic by nature, but never imagined herself decorating cakes. After some coaxing she agreed to go to one class to keep her friend company, and the rest is history. Yvonne left her first wedding show with 72 bookings and has grown to selling 2-3,000 cupcakes each week from her business, The Cake Box. Yvonne has the classic “entrepreneurial spirit” – the one that begins as a flame, but when fanned turns into an inferno.

**Health & Wellness** (sponsored by The Boardwalk) recognizes women for promoting and helping others achieve and promote mental, physical or spiritual well-being in her career or community involvement.

**Magdalena Stopinski**

Magdalena Stopinski’s dedication to health and wellness is inspiring and her positive attitude radiates at kidsLINK. Several years ago, Magdalena saw a gap in services for our community. Children were grieving the unique loss of their parents because they were no longer part of their lives or for only a brief visit every other week. Magdalena took this gap, her knowledge of kids’ and families’ grief and created the unique “Courageous Kids” group to assist children in understanding their mixed feelings about being in care and not being able to live with their family.

**Lifetime Achievement** (sponsored by Remax Solid Gold Realty – McIntyre Team) recognizes women for being active in their community by sharing their heart, their time and their life experience.

**Florence Hansen-Jucker**

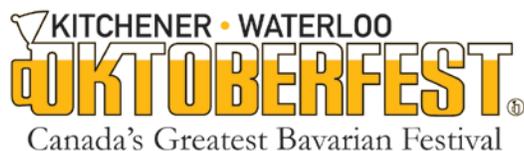
Holding an Artist Diploma from the University of Toronto, where she was a concert master violinist of the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Florence has been performing since the age of 7, when she and her sister formed the Hansen Sisters, a popular duo in Southern Ontario. At an age when many would consider slowing down, Florence joined the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Orchestra. She is an inspiration to other seniors, reminding them that you are never too old to perform. Florence has a vivacious personality, outstanding talent and superb showmanship, with a passion to perform and enjoy life.

**Professional** (sponsored by Rogers Wireless) recognizes women for dedicating themselves to the pursuit of excellence in her chosen career.

**Mary Jo Fedy**

While the number of women breaking into the top executive jobs at Canadian companies remains relatively small (less than 18%), Mary Jo’s career path to Managing Office Partner at KPMG Waterloo is a shining beacon for young women entering the workforce and looking to smash through the glass ceilings. Mary Jo also takes time to mentor and nurture the next generation of young women, encouraging them to follow their dreams and providing an excellent example of what it means to be a woman at the top. Mary Jo has worked in KPMG’s public accounting practice in Waterloo for 18 years, and has accounting and business advisory experience with a variety of privately owned and operated businesses.

**Sports & Recreation** (sponsored by Rogers TV) recognizes women for actively participating, coaching or volunteering in sports or recreation.



### **Mandy Bujold**

Mandy first went to the Waterloo Regional Boxing Academy to see her brother's involvement in the sport. Very quickly, Mandy realized that this was the sport for her and since then has become the 19<sup>th</sup> ranked flyweight in the world. In addition to her many athletic successes, Mandy is a fully certified Level 2 NCCP Coach, and when she is not training she is giving back to her local gym through teaching classes, mentoring aspiring athletes and participating on the Waterloo Regional Boxing Academy's Board on behalf of their athletes. Mandy is a highly sought after keynote speaker for various groups and sports teams in Waterloo Region and elsewhere. Despite the physical and psychological demands of the sport, Mandy always makes time to be involved, to contribute and to build a stronger community.

**Young Adult (14 to 25)** (sponsored by Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest) recognizes young women for leading by example and being a role model to her peers.

### **Amber Shewfelt**

At her high school, Amber has continually been a high achiever both academically and in sports. She has been on the Honour Roll every year and won the Ian Atkinson Award at her school for her high marks and dedication to sports. These are significant achievements for any young woman, but Amber also suffers from Cystic Fibrosis, a debilitating genetic disorder that affects the respiratory, digestive and reproductive systems. Spending up to an hour a day treating her disorder so she can attend school, play sports and, most importantly, breathe, Amber has been described as someone with mental toughness. She chooses to live each day with her belief that others are in far worse situations and it is the quality not the quantity of life that is important.

Residents of the Region were encouraged to nominate their choice for Women of the Year and were invited to enjoy this evening with these distinguished women.

The awards ceremony will be televised Saturday, October 13 at 8 PM, and Sunday, October 14 at 7 PM on Rogers TV, Cable 20. Visit [www.rogerstv.com](http://www.rogerstv.com) for additional broadcast times.

### **About Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest**

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is a not-for-profit Bavarian festival founded in 1969 by a group of volunteers committed to contributing to the social and economic vitality of Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada twin cities with German heritage. Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival celebrates German heritage, food, music and festivities and is supported by more than 50 not-for-profit organizations. The festival is operated by eight year-round full-time staff, over 450 volunteers and 1,300 community and service club volunteers that stage the nine-day festival each October promoting a unique German cultural experience. As well as the economic boost the festival gives the local economy during the international festival, over \$1.5 million is raised each year by the not-for-profit organizations associated with Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest, one of the top three most recognized event brands in Canada.

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### **For additional information:**

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