



**Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Appoints new Executive Director**  
*Dave MacNeil to take the reins of Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival*

(Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada – June 5, 2013) – Festival President, Harry Vogt, announced today the appointment of a new Executive Director for Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest – Dave MacNeil. This announcement is the result of an extensive Canada-wide search.

“We interviewed many talented and capable candidates but in the end, Dave’s abilities, experience, community relationships and demonstrated commitment to Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest, made him the logical choice for this important and demanding position,” said Vogt.

MacNeil will follow in the footsteps of two immediate predecessors, Larry Blundell and Mark Kreller, both acknowledged provincially as strong community leaders in the not-for-profit sector. Blundell retired in 2010 after a fifteen year appointment with the Festival and Kreller passed away suddenly earlier this year after only a two year term.

KWO Past-president and Search Chair, Vic Degutis, believes one of Dave’s significant attributes in this role is his active involvement in the evolution of the organization over the past few years.

“Before Dave took on the role of Acting Executive Director, he was on the Board of Directors, most recently as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president. Dave was an important contributor to our current success and will be a champion to realizing a positive future for the festival.”

MacNeil has volunteered with Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest since 1995.

“Growing up in Preston, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest was always an exciting time of year for our family, with a trip to Kitchener to watch the Parade, and an authentic bavarian meal and live entertainment at Leisure Lodge. We weren’t German but we did like to celebrate,” said MacNeil.

“Over 32 years ago I started my career in the art department at CKCO-TV, and my first task there was to build a float for the Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade. Now, I have the opportunity to work with an exceptional staff, a dedicated and motivated Board of Directors, 450 of the best volunteers in the country, great festhalle partners and a very loyal and dedicated group of corporate sponsors and community partners, in an adventure that we like to call Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest . . . Canada’s Greatest Bavarian Festival.”

The dates for the 2013 Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest are October 11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.



### **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 40 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:**

**Dave MacNeil**

Executive Director

K-W Oktoberfest Inc.

519-570-4267 ext. 222

