



## **Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade 2016 Selects Floats of Honour, Voters Pick People's Choice**

(Waterloo Region, ON - October 10, 2016) - The 2016 Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade Celebrity Judges have revealed their top picks for the best floats in this year's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The floats that have been selected, by the judges, to receive honours this year are:

Festival Award (1st Place) – **KW Oktoberfest Mobile Maypole**  
Harvest Award (2nd Place) - **Kitchener Blues Festival**  
Sponsors' Award (3rd Place) - **German Club Princess Float**  
Twin Cities Award (Best Spirit/Enthusiasm) - **War Amps of Canada**  
Hans & Frieda Award (Use of Animation) – **Nelco Mechanical**  
Miss Oktoberfest Award (Best Visual) – **City of Waterloo**  
Wunderbar Award (Community Involvement) – **K-W Vietnamese Association Float**  
Piller's Gemuetlichkeit Float Award (Most Gemuetlichkeit) – **Nelco Mechanical Float**

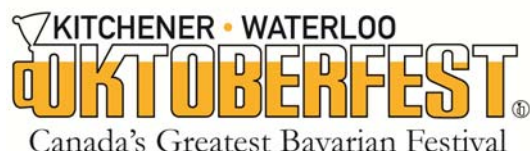
The 2016 Judges for the parade were: **Brenda Halloran**, former Waterloo Mayor, **Brock Lasso**, from the Canadian Home & Renovation Team, **Gary Patenaude**, CKWR FM 98.5, and **Aaron Tomlin**, local actor.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade, which featured numerous colourful floats, clowns and award-winning marching bands on a 5KM route travelling from Kitchener to Waterloo, was broadcast nationally on CTV at 12 noon to an estimated audience of over one million viewers.

Once again this year, parade spectators were able to vote via text messaging for the Thanksgiving Day Parade People's Choice Float, sponsored by Aactiva Group. Thirty floats competed for the honour, with the most votes going to the Kitchener Bluesfest Float. Congratulations to our winners!

"The 2016 edition of the Parade has once again shown everyone why Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival. Every year the Parade gets better and this year it set a new standard," said Dave MacNeil, Executive Director.

The 8th Annual Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest 5K Fun Run, presented by The Record, navigated the Parade route just before the parade started, with over 500 participants there to run the route! First place went to **Tyson Augusto** of Kitchener with his time of 18:37 and



**Elaine Lavallee** of Kitchener with her time of 20:19. Both were then whisked back to the start of the route to ride in the annual Parade.

**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 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 480 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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