



## **Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Receives Ontario Trillium Foundation Funding**

(Waterloo Region, Canada – March 26, 2014) – Kitchener Centre MPP John Milloy announced today that Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest has been awarded a capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation of \$127,300 over one year.

“We are excited and pleased about this news,” says Harry Vogt, President of Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest. “This funding will allow us to invest in our World Headquarters and address our critical need for more meeting space.”

Working with various community partners and skilled volunteers, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest plans to renovate the unfinished third floor of its office at 17 Benton Street, Kitchener. The proposed plan includes developing multiple meeting areas, installing a heating and cooling system, purchasing presentation equipment and computers, and creating an office for the organization’s Volunteer Services team.

Vogt says, once complete, the project will benefit a number of community groups, including Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest partners, regional not-for-profits, festivals and the Volunteer Action Centre KW.

“This new space will establish Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest as a hub of festival activity by allowing other festival and event organizations to use the meeting rooms and attend training sessions,” says Vogt.

Milloy announced that a total of eight community-based organizations will receive funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

“I am proud to be announcing these grants today to a number of Waterloo Region’s leading arts, culture and not-for-profit organizations. It will allow these organizations to pursue innovative initiatives and enhance their sustainability,” said Milloy.

A leading grantmaker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation focuses on building healthy and vibrant communities through community-based initiatives that strengthen the capacity of organizations within the community. The Foundation awards approximately 1,500 grants each year to community-based not-for-profit and charitable organizations.

### **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's 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 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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