LOCALLY CONNECTED

FESTIVE MEETUP



2026

FESTIVE MEETUP INFORMATION PACKAGE

Monday, December 14, 2026
Buffet Dinner (6-7PM)
Festive Meetup (7-9PM)
Live Entertainment/Dancing (9-11PM)
DoubleTree by Hilton Kitchener

RSVP

A Locally Connected Holiday Celebration

2026 Festive Meetup Information Package

Register for the 2026 Festive Meetup.

Celebrate the season with an evening of warm welcomes, festive cheer, and community connection. The Locally Connected Community Hub invites you to join neighbours, friends, colleagues, and new faces for our 2026 Festive Meetup at DoubleTree by Hilton Kitchener.

Join us for an optional buffet dinner, festive conversation and dancing, with beverages available for purchase. Whether you've been part of the Community Hub for years or are joining us for the first time, there's a place for you.

What began as a holiday gathering in the original Eastbridge chapter in December 2017 has grown into a cherished annual tradition. It's an opportunity to reconnect, celebrate the relationships we've built, and welcome new people into our community.

It's also a chance to share the joy of the season. Since 2022, our community has donated more than 500 toys and over $500 to the Waterloo Knights of Columbus' New Toys for Needy Kids Toy Drive. This year, we're pleased to continue that tradition of giving.

With a convenient location just off the highway in Kitchener and the option to stay overnight, our host venue makes it easy to join us from across our community chapters and beyond.

Inside this package, you'll find ways to get involved, details about our partners and host venue, and favourite moments from past festive meetups.

We have room for 200 guests, and we'd love you to be one of them. Bring a friend, neighbour, colleague, or someone who would enjoy a wonderful evening out.

Let's make this a holiday gathering to remember!




Merry Christmas

Participation Options

A. Festive Meetup *(200 tickets available)*

Celebrate the season with the Locally Connected Community Hub! Enjoy two hours of festive networking, great conversations, new connections, and complimentary appetizers (7–9pm). Check-in begins at 6:45PM. Rumour has it Santa may even stop by! Stick around afterward for live entertainment and dancing (9–11pm).

Tickets can be purchased right up to and including the day of the Festive Meetup, subject to availability. A waitlist will open if capacity is reached.

B. Buffet Dinner & Meetup *(100 seats available for buffet dinner)*

Celebrate the season with a delicious holiday buffet featuring all your festive favourites (6–7pm), followed by the Locally Connected Community Hub's 2026 Festive Meetup (7–9pm), filled with great conversations, new connections, and holiday cheer! Then keep the festivities going with live entertainment and dancing (9–11pm)!

Reserve by noon on Monday, December 7, 2026, subject to the shared 100-seat buffet capacity. Late bookings may be accepted with venue approval. Bookings made after the refund deadline are non-refundable; substitutions are permitted.

C. Buffet Dinner, Meetup & Tabletop Booth

Celebrate the season while showcasing your business to attendees at the Locally Connected Community Hub's 2026 Festive Meetup! Your ticket includes the holiday dinner buffet (6–7pm), a tabletop display during the Festive Meetup (7–9pm), and live entertainment and dancing (9–11pm).

Reserve by noon on Monday, December 7, 2026, subject to the shared 100-seat buffet or tabletop capacity, whichever comes first. Purchases made after noon on December 7 are non-refundable; substitutions are permitted.

D. Festive Meetup & Tabletop Booth *(25 tabletop booths available)*

Showcase your business while celebrating the season at the Locally Connected Community Hub's 2026 Festive Meetup! Your ticket includes a tabletop display opportunity, two hours of festive networking, complimentary appetizers, and live entertainment and dancing afterward (9–11pm).

This package can be purchased up to Friday, December 11, 2026 (12:00pm) or until tabletop booth capacity has been reached. Purchases after the refund deadline may be permitted, subject to venue approval, are non-refundable, with substitutions permitted.

E. Corporate Banner Display *(25 corporate banner displays available)*

Give your business some extra visibility at the Locally Connected Community Hub's 2026 Festive Meetup! As an add-on to your Meetup ticket, bring your corporate banner and have it proudly displayed throughout the evening, showcasing your business to attendees while supporting our festive community gathering. Reserve your corporate banner display before they're sold out.

F. Festive Meetup Sponsorship *(4 sponsorships available)*

Celebrate the season while putting your business in the spotlight! As a Festive Meetup Sponsor, you'll enjoy valuable promotional exposure before, during, and after the Locally Connected Community Hub's 2026 Festive Meetup, along with two complimentary Meetup admissions and a tabletop booth to showcase your business. $20 of the $300 sponsorship fee will be redirected to support the toy drive, with the remaining sponsorship proceeds supporting appetizers. Please contact Jason Kipfer by email with questions and/or to secure your sponsorship.

Your sponsorship includes:

- Company name and website link featured in our December newsletter, website, RSVP page, and calendar invitation.
- Recognition in targeted promotional emails, the day-of reminder email, and our pre-Meetup podcast.
- A 1-2 minute opportunity to introduce your business to attendees and share a special holiday greeting during the Festive Meetup.
- Recognition in our post-Meetup social media announcement.
- Complimentary tabletop booth to showcase your business during the Festive Meetup (7–9pm).
- Two complimentary admissions to the Festive Meetup, including appetizers, live entertainment, and dancing afterward (9–11pm).

G. Festive Meetup Sponsorship — Dinner Add-On

Confirmed Festive Meetup Sponsors can purchase individual buffet dinner seats ($60/person) for themselves, colleagues and guests. Enjoy dinner from 6–7pm, with complimentary admission to the Festive Meetup (7–9pm) and live entertainment and dancing (9–11pm) included for every paid dinner guest.

Reserve by noon on Monday, December 7, 2026, subject to the shared 100-seat buffet capacity. Late bookings may be accepted with venue approval. Bookings made after the refund deadline are non-refundable; substitutions are permitted.

Participation Options and Pricing

The following table summarizes what's included in each of the options to participate in this year's Festive Meetup. Click here to secure your spot today before spaces sell out!

Option	Price	Dinner	Meetup & Entertainment	Corporate Display	Toy Drive Contribution per Package
A. Festive Meetup	$15	Included with Option B	Included *(1 admission)*	None	No designated contribution
B. Dinner & Meetup	$70	Included	Included *(1 admission)*	None	No designated contribution
C. Dinner, Meetup & Tabletop Booth	$175	Included	Included *(1 admission)*	Tabletop	$10
D. Meetup & Tabletop Booth	$115	Choose Option C	Included *(1 admission)*	Tabletop	$10
E. Corporate Banner Display	$20	Included with Option B	Purchase Option A or B separately	Corporate banner	$5
F. Festive Meetup Sponsorship	$300	Add Option G	Included *(2 admissions)*	Tabletop and promotion	$20
G. Festive Meetup Sponsorship Dinner Add-on	$60 per person	Included	Included *(1 admission per dinner seat purchased)*	No additional display	No designated contribution

Prices are subject to HST. Beverages sold separately.


KWPanda

Frequently Asked Questions

Shared Capacity Limits: Across all options to participate, the following capacity limits are in place: festive meetup (200 individuals), buffet dinner (100 seats), tabletop booths (25), corporate banner displays (25), and festive meetup sponsorships (4).

Giving Back: Each tabletop package purchased contributes $10, each corporate banner display booking contributes $5, and each Festive Meetup Sponsorship contributes $20 to the Waterloo Knights of Columbus' New Toys for Needy Kids Toy Drive.

Buffet Dinner: Buffet starters include fresh crudités with ranch dip, and garden salad with three dressings. Dinner includes roasted carved turkey, homemade stuffing, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, seasonal vegetable medley, and garlic mashed potatoes. Desserts include sliced fresh fruit, dessert squares, apple pie, Christmas pudding with vanilla bean sauce, and freshly brewed coffee and tea.

Group Booking Bonus: Purchase six or more **Option B:** Dinner & Meetup tickets in a single transaction and receive one complimentary tabletop booth (valued at $100), subject to availability, for a designated member of your group. **Option G:** Sponsor dinner add-ons do not qualify. Please contact Jason Kipfer by email prior to booking.

Refund and Substitution Procedures: The following ticket options are refundable up to and including Monday, December 7, 2026 (12:00pm EST), otherwise substitutions are permitted: **Option B.** Dinner & Meetup; **Option C**. Dinner, Meetup & Tabletop; **Option D.** Meetup & Tabletop; and **Option G.** Festive Meetup Sponsorship Dinner Add-on. To request a refund, please send an email request to info@locallyconnected.ca. Refunds will exclude applicable processing fees.

All sales are final for **Option A.** Festive Meetup; **Option E.** Corporate Banner Display; and **Option F.** Festive Meetup Sponsorship. No substitutions permitted.

Dress Code: Business casual or festive attire—holiday sweaters are warmly encouraged.

Attendance Policy: This is an all-ages ticketed event. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult and will require their own ticket (standard rates apply).

Tabletop Booth: Tabletop booths can be set up between 5:30 – 6:30pm and teardown can begin at 9:00pm and must be completed no later than 11:00pm. You're welcome to leave your display unattended while enjoying the dinner and/or festive meetup. No selling permitted at the tabletop booth. Power must be requested in advance. Booth operators must bring their own extension cords. Questions can be directed to Jason Kipfer by email at info@locallyconnected.ca.

Corporate Banner Display: Upon arrival, your corporate banner can be placed, on a first-come, first-served basis along the designated area for corporate banners. Corporate banners are limited to retractable pull-up banner models and larger display structures are not permitted. Corporate banners can remain visible for the duration of your time at the Festive Meetup and must be taken with you when you depart.

Entertainment: Live entertainment is provided by Rob Puschelberg of Gemstone Entertainment. Depending on the level of interest, karaoke may be offered during the live entertainment and dancing portion of the evening (9-11pm).

Photography Notice: Professional photography will be provided by Jason Panda. By attending the 2026 Festive Meetup, you authorize the Locally Connected Community Hub to utilize photos captured throughout the evening, which may include you, for inclusion within the online photo gallery, event recap promotion, and future marketing and promotion. For any concerns, please send email to info@locallyconnected.ca. Guests can also speak to the photographer or a volunteer on arrival about photography concerns, particularly for children.

Overnight Accommodations: Guests of this year's Festive Meetup are entitled to a 50% room discount for the night of Monday, December 14, 2026. Click here to reserve your overnight room and please use discount code: **FESTIVEMEETUP2026** to receive your discount. Overnight guests will receive free parking and complimentary access to the indoor pool and fitness centre. Breakfast is available for a fee. Rooms are subject to availability.

Help make the evening even more special. If you or your business would like to contribute services, products or experiences as an in-kind sponsor, please contact Jason Kipfer by email. We'd love to explore how your contribution could enhance our festive celebration.


jasonpanda.com | @KWPanda



Help Make the Holidays Brighter

New Toys for Needy Kids Toy Drive

Share the joy of the season by supporting the Waterloo Knights of Columbus' annual New Toys for Needy Kids Toy Drive at our festive meetup.

Since 2022, the Locally Connected Community Hub has contributed more than 500 unwrapped toys and over $500 to help bring holiday cheer to children and families in our community.

You're invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy or a cash donation to the meetup. Representatives from the Waterloo Knights of Columbus will be on hand to collect donations and answer questions about the program.

Gifts for children aged six months to four years, as well as gifts for teenagers, are especially appreciated. A $25 gift card to a local store is another thoughtful option, giving teens the opportunity to choose something they'll enjoy.

Thank you for helping make the holidays a little brighter for local children and families!



In-Kind Support

Community generosity helps make our Festive Meetup special. We're grateful to the following individuals and businesses for sharing their time and talents to enhance this year's celebration.

Panda Prints. Jason Panda celebrates local culture and shared experiences through event photography, collaborative mosaics and fine art commissions.

KW Chair Massage. KW Chair Massage brings chair massage services directly to workplaces and events across Waterloo Region and beyond, offering a welcome opportunity to relax and recharge.

Santa for Hire Santa Jason. With more than 30 years of experience, Santa Jason brings festive joy to family celebrations and corporate Christmas parties throughout Kitchener-Waterloo.

Thank you for helping create a memorable evening for our community!

A Warm Welcome Awaits

DoubleTree by Hilton Kitchener

The Locally Connected Community Hub is delighted to partner with DoubleTree by Hilton Kitchener to host this year's Festive Meetup.

Located at 30 Fairway Road South, Kitchener, at the corner of Fairway Road and King Street East, the hotel offers a welcoming setting to connect and celebrate the season, with free parking and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Planning to stay overnight? Enjoy an onsite restaurant, a full-service Starbucks, an indoor pool and a fitness centre. Pet-friendly accommodations and connecting rooms are also available.

Make a night of it! Enjoy 50% off your overnight room reservation using booking code **FESTIVEMEETUP2026**.

View the hotel and overnight booking details.



2025

Maxwell's Concerts and Events



2024

Maxwell's Concerts and Events



2023

The Pickle Barrel



2022

The Pickle Barrel





Jason Kipfer, Founder & Chair
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