

Newsletter: January 2026



Registration **OPEN**

Upcoming Meetups & Events

- **January 13:** Shoeless Joe's Sports Grill (Guelph BC) Meetup
- **January 14:** Wild Wing (Stratford Area BC) Meetup
- **January 21:** Ernie's Cookhouse (Cambridge BC) Meetup
- **January 26:** Morty's Pub (**9th Anniversary Meetup**)
- **February 2:** Legends Taphouse & Grill (Paris Area BC) **Inaugural Meetup**
- **February 23:** Benchwarmer Sports Bar - RIM Park (Eastbridge BC) Meetup

Feeding Connections: Thanks to Our Happy Hour Meetup Sponsors!

- **January 13:** Shoeless Joe's Sports Grill (Guelph BC) Meetup
 - [Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa - Guelph](#)
 - Photography provided by [Rob Cooper Photography](#)
- **January 21:** Ernie's Cookhouse (Cambridge BC) Meetup
 - [Andy's Custom Contracting](#)
 - Photography provided by [Fedora Media](#)
- **January 26:** Morty's Pub (**9th Anniversary Meetup**)
 - [DLC FC Funding](#)
 - [InArch Consultancy](#)

- [Insurance Made Simple](#)
- [Winmar](#)
- Photography provided by [Jason Panda](#)
- **February 2:** Legends Taphouse & Grill (Paris Area BC) **Inaugural Meetup**
 - [Insurance Made Simple](#)
 - Lee Lynhiavu
- **February 23:** Benchwarmer Sports Bar - RIM Park (Eastbridge BC) Meetup
 - Photography provided by [Jason Panda](#)

Sponsor an upcoming meetup (\$200) and help create an unforgettable experience! Your support not only enhances the event but also puts your business in the spotlight, connecting you with a diverse and engaged community. [Click here](#) for full sponsorship details.



A New Chapter Begins in Paris!



The Locally Connected Community Hub is excited to share that our community continues to grow across South and Southwestern Ontario. We're officially live with our newest and 8th chapter — Paris Area Business Connections!

Many of you already know Krysta Hajovic from our Stratford Area chapter. While she lives in Tavistock, Krysta works in Paris and brings deep local insight, strong community connections, and valuable leadership experience to this new chapter. As Executive Director of Paris Child Care, she oversees two daycares and five before- and after-school programs, supporting more than 300 children and families in the Paris area. Krysta truly understands the power of community connection and saw a clear opportunity to bring LCCHub's momentum and energy to Paris — and we're thrilled to have her leading the way.

- [Join and follow](#) the **Paris Area Business Connections Facebook group**
- [RSVP](#) to the **inaugural Paris Area Business Connections meetup (February 2)**

We can't wait to see the connections, conversations, and community-building that will grow from this newest chapter!



Kick Off 2026 the Locally Connected Way

A new year is the perfect time to reconnect, refocus, and get more involved in your local community. Whether you're new to LCCHub or have been with us for a while, here are 10 easy, high-impact ways to start 2026 strong with the Locally Connected Community Hub:

1. **Submit your enhanced profile** for inclusion in our [Connect SWO](#) app so others can easily find and connect with you.
2. **Follow LCCHub on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)** to stay up to date on events, stories, and opportunities across the region.
3. **Follow your local chapter's Facebook page** to keep tabs on meetups and hyper-local conversations ([Eastbridge-Kitchener-Waterloo](#), [Cambridge](#), [Guelph](#), [Woolwich](#), [Stratford Area](#), [Paris Area](#), [Niagara Region](#)).
4. **Register for an upcoming chapter meetup** and commit to showing up – real connection starts in person.
5. **Introduce yourself in your chapter Facebook group** by sharing who you are, what you do professionally, and a photo of your business card or workspace.
6. **Bring a friend or colleague** to the next meetup you attend and help grow our welcoming community.
7. **Complete the [2025 Year-End Survey](#)** before January 31st – your feedback directly shapes what we build next.
8. **Submit a short testimonial** about your LCCHub experience to help others understand the value of getting involved.

9. **Listen to one of our featured [podcasts](#)** and get inspired by local voices, stories, and ideas.
10. **Download the [Connect SWO app](#)** and explore our [Shop Local Rewards + Discounts Program](#) to support local while unlocking added value.
11. **Bonus idea:** Start building (or strengthening) your [Trusted Circle](#) by intentionally connecting with professionals you'd want on speed dial – our meetups are a great place to start.

Something BIG is Coming to Our Door Prize Program!



We're unveiling a brand-new way to distribute our famous door prizes—and this time, we're harnessing the power of Generative Artificial Intelligence with the help of our amazing volunteer, Tom Heiber, CEO of HeitechSoft.

Want a chance to win a prize of your choosing through this innovative process? You have to be there to experience it! Just make sure to bring your cell phone—you'll need it to participate.

Don't miss out on this exciting upgrade at our 9th Anniversary Meetup – [click here to RSVP!](#)

New Volunteer Communications Tool: Slack



We're excited to share that LCCHub has introduced [Slack](#), a modern, channel-based communication and collaboration platform, for our volunteers and ambassadors.

Slack helps us streamline communication, reduce email clutter, and improve transparency by bringing conversations, updates, and shared resources into one easy-to-use, searchable space. We're already nearly fully onboarded—and making great use of its features!

More importantly, Slack helps strengthen connection across our volunteer community. It creates a shared space where ideas flow, updates are timely, and everyone feels part of

something special—working together to support inclusive, safe, and welcoming communities.

Interested in getting involved? If you'd like to join an amazing group of volunteers making a real difference in where we live, work, play, and shop, [we'd love to hear from you](#).

Together, we're building stronger, more connected communities—one conversation at a time.

Share Your View of Community – Seasonal Photo Showcase



Our LCCHub Seasonal Photo Showcase is officially underway, and we'd love for you to be part of it! This is your chance to capture and share the people, places, and moments that make our communities such special places to live, work, play, and shop.

Browse the growing collection of [submitted photos](#), get inspired, and be sure to select your favourites to help us highlight the stories that resonate most across our community.

Have a great photo of your own? [Submit it](#) and help us showcase community through every season—one photo at a time.

Build Your Trusted Circle

We believe everyone should have a [Trusted Circle](#) — a small group of go-to professionals you can call with confidence when it matters most.

These are the people who earn your business through relationship-building, reliability, and trust. Not just when something goes wrong, but over time. Think of the professionals you'd want on speed dial: your banker, mortgage specialist, lawyer, financial advisor, mechanic, or local trades professional who knows your home and your needs.

Building a Trusted Circle isn't about transactions — it's about connection. It's about knowing who to call, feeling supported, and keeping your time, energy, and resources local.

At LCCHub, we encourage our members to intentionally build and strengthen these relationships as part of creating more connected, resilient, and welcoming communities. When we invest in people we trust, we all benefit.

Who's in Your Trusted Circle?

Your Trusted Circle doesn't build itself — it grows through real conversations and genuine relationships. One of the best ways to establish and strengthen your Trusted Circle is by actively participating in LCCHub meetups, where local professionals connect, share, and build trust face-to-face.

In the months ahead, we'll be introducing industry-themed meetups, with each month spotlighting a specific sector to help you intentionally expand your network and make meaningful connections.

Show up, engage, and get to know the people you'll want on speed dial. Stay tuned for more details — and come build your Trusted Circle with us. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Event Highlights



Holiday Moments That Made Us Smile

Relive the warmth, laughter, and community spirit from the Locally Connected Community Hub Festive Meetup at Maxwell's Concerts and Events in Waterloo on December 8th through three short video highlights featuring heartfelt messages and reflections from our members and supporters.

From holiday greetings to personal testimonials, these clips capture what makes LCCHub such a special place to connect.

A special thank you to Sheldon Thompson of [Ascnd Media](#) for beautifully capturing and producing these videos, helping bring the spirit of the evening to life.

Click the thumbnails below to watch each of the short video highlights — and don't forget to visit our official [LCCHub YouTube channel](#) to explore even more episodes, stories, and community moments from across our growing network.

There's always something new to discover — and someone new to meet.



Where Our Community Connects

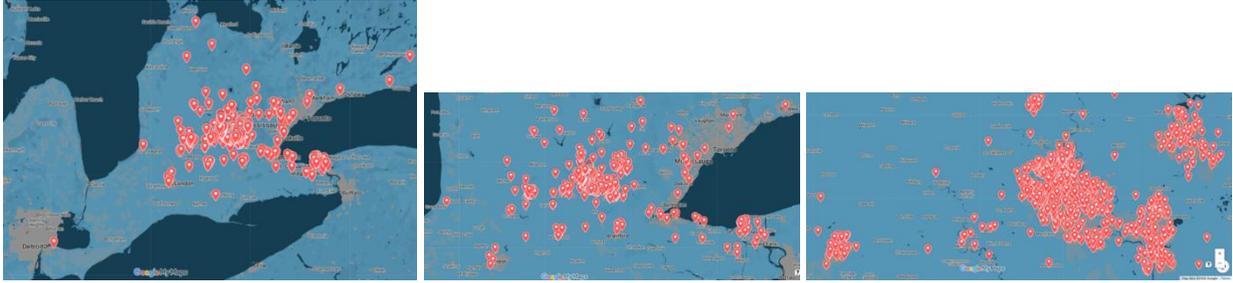
Ever wondered where our LCCHub members and meetup attendees are coming from?

This month, we're excited to share three geomap visuals showing the household postal codes of our members across our growing network. These maps give us a powerful snapshot of our catchment area — helping us understand where connections are forming, how far our reach extends, and where momentum is building.

These insights help us:

- Better plan meetup locations and chapter growth;
- Understand travel patterns and participation;
- Ensure we're building inclusive, accessible communities; and
- Make informed decisions as we continue to expand across South and Southwestern Ontario.

As our community grows, these maps remind us that while our chapters may be local, the impact of showing up travels far and wide.



Online Resources

- [ConnectSWO](#) - Southwestern Ontario's largest and most freely accessible shop local business directory
- [Photo Gallery](#)
- [Meetup Feedback Form](#)
- [Community Outreach](#)
- [Milestones & Achievements](#)
- [Sponsors](#)
- [RSVP to your next Meetup](#)

New Members

Eastbridge Chapter

- Carmen Schultz
- Corey Bahadur
- Dean Mustafic - Waste Connections
- Margaret Sullivan Williams - Engaging Business Solutions

Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter

- Abhishek Pradeep
- Allie Morrison - Luna Aesthetics
- Chris May - Service IQ Consulting
- Christy Bertrand - Uptown Waterloo Business Improvement Area
- Connor Koehler - Travers Law
- Dawson Fallows
- Doug Ferrier - Innovative Business Breakthroughs
- Edison Basanande - Regos Mechanical Group

- James Strang - JS Consulting
- Kobi Schnabel Eliav
- Kristine Gelmotto
- Kristine Wulf
- Lee - Laura Leigh Grooming
- Melissa Small - EmployNext, powered by Serco
- Mohit Batra - Gaia Pottery
- Nathan Gillespie - VCT Group
- Peter Do - Pendo Studio
- Robert Giroux
- Shanan Cunningham - Embrace Network Guelph
- Sorin Popa
- Spiro Dracopoulos - Bingemans
- Todd Letts - Todd Letts Consulting

Cambridge Chapter

- Corey Barron
- Jamie Pritchard - Aspire Higher
- Kimberley Butler - Real Edge
- Meg Dunning - Meg Dunning Creative
- Olivia Opara
- Uchenna Opara - Greatway Financial

Guelph Chapter

- Pascal D'Astous - Health Wealth & Freedom
- Saim Khan
- Steve Chretien - Waste Management

Stratford Area Chapter

- Azuriah Bedi
- Ezekiel Bedi
- Jamie Pritchard - Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area
- Sonia Bedi
- Steve Stacey - Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce

- Dairy Queen Grill & Chill (King Street North)
 - DT Shawarma (Bridge Street West)
 - Eby Manor Golden Guernsey Dairy Market
 - Enspire Dental Opportunities
 - Freshco (University & Bridge)
 - Garrett Peck Visuals
 - Gecko Websites
 - Grand River Tanning Salon
 - Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce
 - Hand & Stone - Guelph
 - Hand & Stone - The Boardwalk
 - Renu Coaching
 - ShineCo Cleaning
 - St. Louis Bar & Grill
 - Sugar Savvy Beauty Boutique
 - The Poop Valet
 - The Pickle Barrel (Conestoga Mall)
 - Trevello
 - Ultimate Vision Web & IT Solutions
 - Ultra Plumbing & HVAC
 - Vasco Real Estate
 - Wally Parr Foods
 - Waterloo Bike Shop
 - YUMMY Burgers
-

We look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming Meetups! [Click here](#) to confirm your spot (if you haven't already)!

Jason Kipfer

Founder & Chair, Locally Connected Community Hub

Co-Founder & Chair, Eastbridge Business Connections

519-704-0866

info@locallyconnected.ca