

Newsletter: March 2026



Registration **OPEN**

Upcoming Meetups & Events

- **March 10:** Beertown Public House (Guelph BC) Meetup
- **March 11:** Gilly's Pubhouse (Stratford Area BC) Meetup
- **March 24:** Browns Socialhouse - Cambridge (Cambridge BC)
- **March 30:** The Pickle Barrel - Conestoga Mall (Eastbridge BC) Meetup
- **April 8:** The Office Tap & Grill (Niagara Region BC) Meetup
- **April 13:** Crowsfoot Smokehaus (Woolwich BC)
- **April 21:** Huether Hotel (Kitchener-Waterloo BC)
- **April 27:** Browns Socialhouse (Eastbridge BC)

Feeding Connections: Thanks to Our Happy Hour Meetup Sponsors!

- **March 10:** Beertown Public House (Guelph BC) Meetup
 - [Wright Wealth \(Guelph\) Inc.](#)
 - Photography provided by [Rob Cooper Photography](#)
- **March 11:** Gilly's Pubhouse (Stratford Area BC) Meetup
 - [Bailey's Local Foods](#)
 - [Gemstone Entertainment](#)
- **March 24:** Browns Socialhouse (Cambridge BC) Meetup

- [Cambridge Redhawks](#)
- [Cambridge Hornets](#)
- Photography provided by [Fedora Media](#)
- **March 30:** The Pickle Barrel – Conestoga Mall (Eastbridge BC) Meetup
 - [Home & Lifestyle Shopping Guide](#)
 - Photography provided by [Jason Panda](#)
- **April 8:** The Office Tap & Grill (Niagara Region BC)
 - [Lutz Realty](#)
- **April 13:** Crowsfoot Smokehaus (Woolwich BC)
 - Photography provided by [Rob Cooper Photography](#)
- **April 21:** Huether Hotel (Kitchener–Waterloo BC)
 - [UpTown Waterloo BIA](#)
- **April 27:** Browns Socialhouse (Eastbridge BC)
 - 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 proud to celebrate a major milestone – the successful launch of our 8th chapter, Paris Area Business Connections!

Our inaugural meetup was an incredible success, welcoming 60 attendees – making it the largest inaugural meetup in our nine-year history. We were especially honoured to welcome Mayor Bailey of the County of Brant,

who shared opening remarks and presented a certificate officially welcoming the Paris Area chapter to the community – a moment we won't soon forget.

This exciting chapter is led by Krysta Hajovic, whose passion for community and deep local connections continue to help build meaningful relationships across the Paris area. The energy, conversations, and new connections from our first meetup confirmed what we already believed – Paris is ready for something special.

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

Plans are now underway for our next Paris Area Business Connections meetup, and we can't wait to continue growing this vibrant and welcoming community together. Stay tuned for details – the best is yet to come.



A Smarter Way to Win: The Launch of SmartDraw



We were excited to launch our new SmartDraw door prize program at our 9th Anniversary Meetup — a major step forward in enhancing the Community Hub experience.

With SmartDraw, attendees simply scan a QR code upon arrival to check in and select the door prize(s) they'd most like to win. Winners are randomly selected and notified instantly by text message, allowing everyone to relax and enjoy the meetup without rushing to claim prizes. Winners can simply

stop by the registration area before leaving to collect their prize.

The new system also provides valuable insights for our annual meetup door prize sponsors, helping us understand which prizes are most popular and how many are claimed, while continuing to encourage attendees to visit the sponsoring businesses.

A special thank you to our amazing volunteer Tom Heiber, CEO of [HeitechSoft](#), for helping us harness the power of Generative Artificial Intelligence to take our meetups from good to great in 2026.

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. There are lots of opportunities to participate this spring - [click here](#) to RSVP!

Earth Day 2026 – Help Us Make an Impact



The Locally Connected Community Hub is planning a community-wide initiative in recognition of Earth Day 2026, and we're inviting members across our Community Hub to help shape it.

We're bringing together volunteers, ideas, and energy from across all eight of our chapters to plan activities that support environmental stewardship — from potential cleanups and tree planting to other creative ways we can make a positive impact together.

If you're interested in helping plan, support, or participate, we invite you to learn more and sign up to participate in an exploratory (virtual) planning meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 (7:00 - 8:00pm). [Click here](#) to learn more and get involved.

Your Local Trusted Circle Starts Here

Establish Your Trusted Circle

Each month will spotlight professionals from different industries, giving attendees a relaxed and welcoming opportunity to connect, ask questions, and build their trusted circle.

March  Electrician, Plumber, HVAC Technician, Property Services	April  Mortgage Specialist / Broker	May  Financial Advisor / Planner, Insurance Specialist
June  Mechanic, Automotive Service Professional	July  Lawyer (General, Family, Small Business)	August  Real Estate Professional
September  Accountant, Tax Professional	October  Health & Wellness Professional	November  Insurance Specialist

 **LOCALLY CONNECTED**
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

locallyconnected.ca/trustedcircle

Everyone should have a Trusted Circle — a small group of go-to professionals you can rely on when it matters most.

These are the people who earn your trust over time through relationships, reliability, and genuine service. They're the professionals you want on speed dial — your banker, mortgage specialist, lawyer, financial advisor, mechanic, or trusted local trades professional who understands 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.

One of the best ways to grow your Trusted Circle is by participating in LCCHub meetups, where local professionals and community members connect face-to-face and build meaningful relationships.

Since it's March, this is a great opportunity to add a trusted Electrician, Plumber, HVAC Technician, or Property Services professional to your circle. Be

sure to RSVP to one of our March meetups and start building the relationships you'll be glad to have when you need them most.

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.

Event Highlights



Your 2026 To-Do List

Whether you're new to the Community Hub or a familiar face, here are 10 easy ways to maximize your experience and connections this year:

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. **Explore [Locally Connected Outdoor Adventures](#)** – With warmer weather on the way, discover new ways to experience your local community through our outdoor activities and gatherings.
 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** ([YouTube](#) or [Spotify](#)) 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 businesses 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.
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New Members

Cambridge Chapter

- Ajibola Salami
- Balkar Dhanju – Infinity HVAC LTD.
- Brenda Phelan – Silver Compass FP
- Brett Wilson
- Cam McArthur
- Carolyn Leighton-Hilborn – Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work
- David Guerin
- Dean Corporon
- Gurusish Singh – Trek Nirvana
- James Moutoux – MTX Technologies Inc
- Jason Stangl – Cambridge Redhawks
- Kimberley Davidson
- Mackenzie Wilhelm – KWE Inc
- Maimoona Sadiq – Silkentouch aesthetics studio
- Mark Thompson – Dope Content Co.
- Max Beilstein – Windows MB Cleaned
- Peter Caple – Bwxt

- Renia Pruchnicki - Loving Hypnosis
- Salman Arefin - AI Power House
- Sandy Caple
- Shawn Permauloo
- Simon Royer - Simon Royer - Realtor®
- Yianni Skropolis

Eastbridge Chapter

- Jay Vaghadia - Indianspice
- Kaitlin Zimmer - Remax Twin City
- Remi Vansteelandt - Pixel Bridges
- Roman Podoprygora - Cabinet Installation
- Ryan Nafekh
- Samantha Campbell - Pixel Bridges
- Sara Jay

Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter

- Adrit Batra - Gaia Pottery
- Andre Cordeiro - Dres Auto Detailing Inc
- Andrew Mackenzie - Vecino Handyman Services
- Arin Kimmel - Tiger-Kimmel Communications
- Ash Maru - Peplemint.ca
- Braxten Breen - Braxten Breen Web Design
- Christina Hackett - Wildflowers Media
- Christine De Castro - Waterloo Regional Health Network Foundation
- DJ Farnworth - OE Canada
- Gabi Underwood - Reis Informatica
- Jeff Gingerich - Century 21 Heritage House
- Jessica Vandermeer - Vandermeer Osteopathy
- JoAnne McCormick - CFO Partners
- John Porter - The Food Bank of Waterloo Region
- Jordan Boer - StaylocalKW
- Kasey Sibley - Ctrl V - Waterloo
- Kayla Cantalini - Little Arrow Bookkeeping
- Luca Galati - Guelph Kia
- Luke MacDonald - Making Dreams Come True
- Maddy Ridgers
- Marian MICKS - Maid Marian

- Matt Bierschbach
- Merin Mekkattu
- Michael Milne - Effect Hope
- Misha Winterfeld - Guelph Solar
- Nikola Janakovic - NIKO Signs & GraFX
- Peter Douwes - Winmar
- Roxy Radaczynska
- Samuel Bradea
- Stacey Chan - Enoch wealth
- Stephanie Finch - Sable & Co. Handcrafted Candles & Wax Melts
- Stephanie Lewis
- Steven Sosnoski - Grand River Hospital Foundation
- Susy Martins - Advise2Rise
- Theresa Do - Pendo Studio
- Tim Hatfield - Grill Hero

Guelph Chapter

- Ashley D'Astous - Altruistic Acres
- Bibhu Mohapatra - Shoeless Joe's Guelph
- Diane Woodworth - Worth Organizing
- Hailey Rickerby - Helios Tech
- Kevin Brock - Chase Payment Solutions
- Kevin Brock - Chase Payments
- Maria Nguyen
- Mike Nagy - Guelph Solar
- Pascal D'Astous - Mr. Pascal's Success Suite
- Puja Sapkota - Bollywood Bistro
- Remel Oandasan - Curtis-Villar Chartered Professional Accountants
- Sabrina - Shoeless Joe's Sports Bar
- Sara Johnson - Blue22 Personal Training & Rehabilitation

Niagara Region Chapter

- Anisa Elamin - Datasphere Technologies Inc
- Chantal Asselin - Connect to your Sole
- Christine Manuel - HR with Intent
- Debi Katsmar
- Nigel Wrench - The Print Group
- Stacey Pollard

- Tareq Walizada - Dehnowtech Inc

Paris Area Chapter

- Bernie Martin
- Bev Hoekman
- Bill Boirier - Legends Taphouse & Grill
- Brandon Mears
- Brenda Anderson - Anderson Kitchen and Bath Design Inc
- Bryan Maude
- Celeste Joseph - Maison Du Pain
- Christi Garneau - Creek View Acres Nursery & Orchard
- Colin Gander - County of Brant
- David Bailey, Mayor - County of Brant
- David Prang - Chamber Of Commerce Brantford-Brant
- Janice Knill - Jason's Wheelhouse
- Jason Freeze - BScene
- Joanne Palma - Spreadsheet Specialist
- John Bisailon - Creek View Acres Nursery & Orchard
- Kathleen Foldvari - A Minute for Mental Health
- Katrina Dalton - Special Education Teacher
- Kelly Guitar - Guitar and Associates - Bookkeeping
- Melanie Mears - What's the Scoop
- Micaela García - Argento Alfajores
- Michelle Van Laeken - Van Laeken Family Farm
- Monica Squacabia Alves - Global Payments
- Rachel Marland - West River Road Massage therapy
- Ralph Joseph - Maison Du Pain
- Reilly Mitchell - Benson Crew Real Estate
- Renia Pruchnicki - Truth Belts
- Roylene Clare - Roylene's Sweet Treats
- Sadeki Simpson - Edward Jones
- Serguei Solokhine - OnCue Executive Solutions
- Stephanie Cuachon - OnCue Executive Solutions
- Steven Thomson
- Susan Morton - Paris and District Chamber of Commerce
- Thomas Clare - Thomas Clare Photography
- Tiffany Hayes - SNAX
- Tiffany Martin
- Treasure Baker - Chase payment solutions

- Vince Van Laeken – Van Laeken Family Farm

Stratford Area Chapter

- Calvin Harmsworth
- David Dietrich – BRX Mortgage

Woolwich Chapter

- Damon May – Snaps Paint

Member at Large

- Aaron Knelsen
- Barry Bender
- Dan Wright
- Vitaliy Babiy – Samara Capital



Annual Meetup Door Prize Sponsors

- ALL Corporate Print & Branding
- Andy's Custom Contracting
- Bailey's Local Foods
- Brentwood Custom Lasering
- HiWay Flowers
- InArch Consultancy
- irisHR

- Caudle's Catch Seafood
- Cellular Phoenix
- Chef On Call
- Creekside Hearing
- Cross Heating & Air Conditioning
- Dairy Queen Grill & Chill (King Street North)
- DT Shawarma (Bridge Street West)
- Eby Manor Golden Guernsey Dairy Market
- Enspire Dental Opportunities
- Freshco (University & Bridge)
- Gecko Websites
- Gemstone Entertainment
- Grand River Beauty Lounge
- Grand River Tanning Salon
- Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce
- Hand & Stone - Guelph
- Hand & Stone - The Boardwalk
- HeitechSoft
- Jackie Lauer, Leadership Consulting & Coaching
- Lavish 387
- Les trois lys herbal clinic
- Meal in a Jar
- Morty's Pub
- OUR Community Dollar
- Pennzoil 10 Minute Oil Change
- Pharmasave - Carriage Crossing Pharmacy
- Red Swan Pizza (Northfield Drive)
- Renu Coaching
- ShineCo Cleaning
- St. Louis Bar & Grill
- Sugar Savvy Beauty Boutique
- The Poop Valet
- The Pickle Barrel (Conestoga Mall)
- ThunderStorm Snacks
- Ultimate Vision Web & IT Solutions
- Vasco Real Estate
- Vavoom Beauty
- Wally Parr Foods
- Waterloo Bike Shop

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

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