



Volume 1, Issue 3

July 1, 2003

### **Committee Believes Main Library would be Successful on Centre Block**

After reviewing Phase II of the Kitchener Public Library (KPL) Assessment Study, the Centre Block Steering Committee stated that the report reinforces its belief that KPL's Main Branch should be located on Centre Block, if the library were to be relocated.

"More than ever, we are of the view that the relocation of the Main Branch is likely to produce the most private sector interest on Centre Block. It is the best way to achieve a development that will attract people to visit and live in the downtown," said Craig Robson, a local lawyer and member of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee also wants to begin meeting informally with banking institutions on potential financing options and developing private contacts. It would like to explore the public tender process, expressions of interest, letters of intent and private/public partnerships throughout the summer.

The Committee has also recommended that Council redirect \$15,000 of its budget to KPL's Board to help with its Library Building Program Study. This study is intended to provide information pertaining to the library's needs and how they can be accommodated at Centre Block, should the relocation be approved.

The possible relocation of the K-W Art Gallery, in combination with the library is also being investigated. The Steering Committee will report back to Council on September 8, 2003. KPL will report back on its building program by October 15, 2003.

For more information please contact Frank Pizzuto at (519) 741-2394 or [frank.pizzuto@city.kitchener.on.ca](mailto:frank.pizzuto@city.kitchener.on.ca).

### **Victoria Park Welcomes the Boathouse Bistro**

The City is thrilled to welcome the Boathouse Bistro to Victoria Park's Boathouse. The restaurant, which opened June 24, offers gourmet sandwiches, summer salads and children's meals and snacks.

The outdoor café hours of operation will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week. Be sure to take advantage of summer days in the park.

For more information please contact Michelle Schurter at (519) 741-2506 or [michelle.schurter@city.kitchener.on.ca](mailto:michelle.schurter@city.kitchener.on.ca).

### **Special Events this Summer**

There are a number of exciting events in downtown this summer. For more information visit [www.kw-visitor.on.ca](http://www.kw-visitor.on.ca).

#### **Unity Jam, July 1**

Mixing young talent from Kitchener Civic Square; 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.  
Free admission

#### **Cruise Night, July 4**

A showcase of classic cars  
King Street; 6:30 to 11 p.m.  
Free admission

#### **Tooney Tuesday, Every Tuesday in July**

Dancing, music, magic and comedy.  
Civic Square; 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
\$2 donations will be accepted in support of the Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region.

#### **Wednesday Outdoor Market, Every Wednesday in July**

A street market with the freshest fruits, vegetables, flowers, cheeses and baked goods.

Duke Street; 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### **Streetmosphere, Every Thursday in July**

Watch out for surprise entertainment.  
Throughout downtown; noon to 1 p.m.  
Free admission

#### **Blues, Brews and BBQ's, August 8 and 9**

Great blues music and barbecued food.  
Civic Square; Friday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.;  
Saturday, noon to 10 p.m.  
Free admission

#### **KidSpark, August 16 and 17**

Extreme fun for kids of all ages.  
Victoria Park; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;  
Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.  
Free admission

## **New Customer Support Services Centre**

Downtown Kitchener welcomes California-based Arvato Services; a leading global provider of integrated and customized outsourcing services. The company will open a new customer support service centre at 235 King Street East, Kitchener.

"I am happy to welcome Arvato to the community," said Kitchener Mayor Carl Zehr. "This new investment in our downtown complements the development and revitalization efforts that the City of Kitchener has underway with its successful 'Urban Evolution' program."

Arvato is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bertelsmann, a world-wide media group that also owns Random House. The company plans to initially hire 150 employees, which will produce approximately a \$6.6 million annual payroll to employees from the community.

For more information please contact Kathy Bissell at (519) 741-2294 or [kathy.bissell@city.kitchener.on.ca](mailto:kathy.bissell@city.kitchener.on.ca).

## **Downtown Monitoring Report**

Given its diverse economic base and multicultural foundation, downtown Kitchener provides a wealth of opportunities for residential, business, institutional, educational and cultural developments. The 2002 Downtown Monitoring Report outlines and analyzes the annual progress and performance of downtown Kitchener.

The report highlights significant investment in 2002, with overall downtown construction values totalling \$35.1 million. This includes \$25.1 million for residential projects, \$8.1 million for commercial projects, \$1.3 million for government and institutional projects and \$622,500 for industrial projects. It is undeniable that downtown Kitchener has made significant economic development accomplishments in 2002.

For the complete 2002 Downtown Monitoring Report, visit our website at [www.city.kitchener.on.ca](http://www.city.kitchener.on.ca) or call (519) 741-2292.

## **Downtown Wellness Centre**

Kitchener City Council approved a partnership with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board to build and operate a Downtown Wellness Centre in the former St. Mary's High School site at Ontario and Weber Streets. Anticipated to be completed by January 2005, the proposed location for the Downtown Wellness Centre is also the future home of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board head office, which will house approximately 150 school board employees.

An extremely important component of building a sense of community for the downtown is providing the supports and facilities that other Kitchener neighbourhoods have. The Downtown Wellness Centre would be a place where downtown residents can congregate, celebrate and support each other through a variety of recreational, social and community programming. The Core Community Centre Working Group has committed to run an aggressive fundraising campaign as well as develop programming to operate the centre.

For more information please contact Frank Pizzuto at (519) 741-2394 or [frank.pizzuto@city.kitchener.on.ca](mailto:frank.pizzuto@city.kitchener.on.ca).

For more information about the City's initiatives in downtown Kitchener, contact Frank Pizzuto, (519) 741-2394.

## **Downtown Construction**

Downtown will see street improvement projects throughout the spring and summer, all designed to create better vehicular access and upgrade road, sidewalk and underground services.

### **Weber Street**

Water to Queen

Dates: April 21 – August 31, 2003

### **Victoria Park Entrance Feature**

Gaukel and Joseph

Dates: Demolition - Early July 2003

Construction - Fall of 2003

### **Center Block Parkette**

Open Space abutting King Street, in the former Lyric Location

Dates: May 2003 - Ongoing

### **Victoria Street**

Joseph to Walnut Park Street: Devon to Railway, west of Stewart

Dates: June 2 - November 30, 2003

\*\*Victoria and Park Streets will be closed to through traffic throughout the project.

For more information please contact Stephanie Brasseur at (519) 741-2373 or [stephanie.brasseur@city.kitchener.on.ca](mailto:stephanie.brasseur@city.kitchener.on.ca).

## **Dining in the Downtown**

From casual cafés to fine dining restaurants, downtown Kitchener has many exciting destinations. They add character to the City and complement the many other entertainment opportunities that are available to residents and tourists alike.

In the past year several new restaurants have opened in the area, such as: the Walper Terrace Café, Northern Thai, Squashed Grape, The Still, Venezia and newly renovated Peter Martin's 20 King Street. These new exciting restaurants combined with fantastic pre-existing ones demonstrate that there is something for everyone in downtown Kitchener.

Throughout July, the Positive Action Committee, a working group sponsored by the Downtown Community Collaborative, will be examining locations of existing restaurants. Its goal is to identify niche restaurant markets including fine dining, international and Asian cuisine.

For more information please contact Cory Bluhm, co-chair of the Positive Action Committee, at (519) 741-2776.