

McMaster University

Kitchener-Waterloo and Area Family Medicine Residency Program

Living in Kitchener-Waterloo



[City of Kitchener](#)



[City of Waterloo](#)

City of Kitchener

Formerly known as the “City of Berlin”, Kitchener has over 200,00 residents and neighbours the cities of Cambridge and Waterloo. Kitchener’s economic heritage is industrial but it is currently an internationally-recognized insurance and finance sector and is an emerging centre for digital media and health sciences.



City Hall

City of Waterloo

The city of Waterloo is world renown and home to the University of Waterloo, Wilfred Laurier University, RIM and the Perimeter Institute. It is a strong technology centre and has a population over 100,000.



University of Waterloo

Kitchener and Waterloo are sometimes jointly referred to as “Kitchener-Waterloo” or dubbed “the twin cities”

They have German and Native American ancestry, and along with Cambridge make up the Waterloo *region*, one of the largest Census Metropolitan Areas in Canada.



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Kitchener Blues Festival



Oktoberfest





Chicopee Ski Park



Doon Heritage Village



Museums & Conservatories

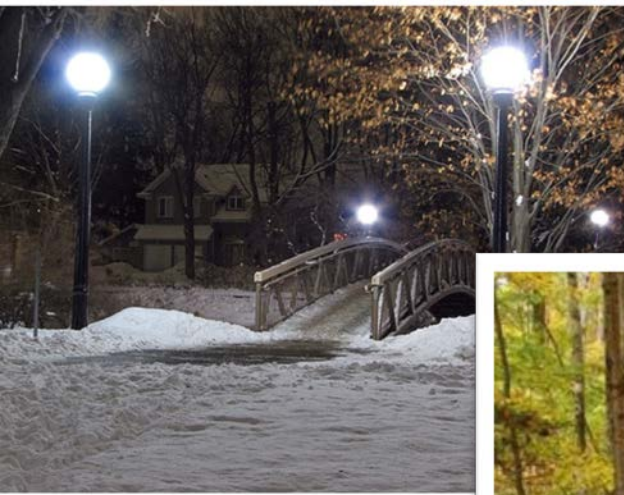




Victoria Park



Huron Trail



Fun Facts about Kitchener

- The name “Kitchener” was picked to honour a war veteran named Horatio Herbert Kitchener
- Kitchener celebrates Oktoberfest – a nine day festival based on the German Oktoberfest. People all over the world come to celebrate and it’s the second largest Oktoberfest celebration in the world, next to the original in Munich
- The *world-wide* “blue box” recycling program started in Kitchener
- William Lyon Mackenzie King, the 10th Prime Minister of Canada, was born (1874) and died in Kitchener (1950)
- The annual Kitchener Waterloo Multicultural Festival draws thousands of people, and features ethnic foods, dance & crafts

Fun Facts about Waterloo

- Founded in 1984, the Brick Brewery is Ontario's first craft brewery
- The Perimeter Institute is a major centre for theoretical physics research and where Stephen Hawking serves as chair
- The Accelerator Centre is a world-renowned centre dedicated to accelerating the creation and growth of sustainable new technology companies
- The bike park at McLennan park is hailed as one of the best bike parks in Southern Ontario by BMX and mountain biking enthusiasts



Perimeter Institute

Job Stats

- Wide range of employers from manufacturing to high-tech
- Historically, one of the lowest unemployment rates in Ontario
- Largest Employers:
 - Research In Motion
 - Waterloo Region District School Board
 - Toyota Manufacturing
 - Manulife Financial
 - University of Waterloo
 - Region of Waterloo
- Major industries and employment areas in region:
 - Agriculture
 - Retail/Wholesale Trade
 - Construction & Skilled Trades
 - Education
 - Finance & Business
 - Healthcare and Social Assistance
 - Manufacturing
 - Technology
 - Transportation, Warehouse & Logistics

Housing Info

- Housing in Kitchener-Waterloo is lower than in Toronto and the surrounding area
- Average buying price (October 2012):
 - Residential property: \$302,656
 - Condominium unit: \$215,831
 - Townhouse: \$287,133
 - Single detached home: \$339,592
- Average days on market: 47
- Average rental price:
 - two-bedroom apartment: \$825
 - three-bedroom apartment: \$900
 - 1 room: \$434-\$560



Resident Perspective

"I live in Guelph and commute to Kitchener. The commute is about 30 minutes and a lovely drive. Kitchener itself is a great city. There's lots to do; great restaurants, festivals and beautiful parks. I go running on my lunch hour sometimes in a nearby park, which is awesome! There are lots of young professionals and many opportunities for networking and socializing." --PGY2

"As a new 'single-and-ready-to-mingle' resident to the KW region, with very few ties and no social connections, my big concern was finding a welcoming, social crowd. Fortunately, this wasn't an issue at all! There are many pubs, clubs, restaurants and a very warm, outgoing community - and this is coming from someone used to the downtown scene of Halifax! Bars are usually filled, patrons easy to talk to and the culture of the KW campus is fun and outgoing. You'll often hear 'oh, it's pretty close to Toronto' as an advertisement for regional center's nightlife - that is wholly unnecessary if you're in KW!" --PGY1

If you would like more information regarding practicing and living in Kitchener-Waterloo, please contact:

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Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce