



## ION Update November 2013

Enjoy your last few Halloween treats with the current issue of the ION Update. Find out how the Region is progressing with its visionary rapid transit service.

### IONtoberfest was wunderbar!



The rain on Saturday, October 19 didn't dampen the *Gemuetlichkeit* spirit!

More than 1,700 residents and local business owners celebrated IONtoberfest, touring the Region's Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) when it was on display in Waterloo Public Square, October 18-20. In addition to seeing the LRV up close, participants were able to learn more about the ION route, ask questions and speak to rapid transit staff one-on-one. The 60-foot mock-up of the LRV is expected to

return to Waterloo Region next spring. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you to the Oktoberfest promotions staff and dignitaries who joined the festivities at the future home of the ION Stop in UpTown Waterloo.

### Small Business Workshop Series



The Waterloo Region Small Business Centre, in partnership with the Region of Waterloo, and with support from the Downtown Kitchener and UpTown Waterloo Business Improvement Areas, will be hosting a series of free workshops for local business owners.

Aimed at small to medium sized businesses, the four free workshops will take place over the next year with the goal of helping local business owners prepare for ION construction.

The first workshop, entitled *Planning for Profits*, will focus on developing plans for financial management prior to and during construction. The workshop will be hosted by Kevin Ballantyne of Prosperous Business Consulting. Kevin has more than 25 years of financial service experience. He brings with him a devotion to helping business owners reach their personal and financial goals.

### For more information:

- Website: [regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit](http://regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit)
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*Planning for Profits* will be held on Monday, November 25 at Region of Waterloo Headquarters, 150 Frederick Street, from 5:30-8 p.m. Free parking is available.

For more information or to register, contact [www.waterlooregionsmallbusiness.com](http://www.waterlooregionsmallbusiness.com).

## Public Information Centre

### *Intersection Modifications at Mill & Ottawa St.*

As part of the early functional design process, opportunities to improve traffic operations through the realignment of the Mill and Ottawa Street intersection were identified. The Region hired a consultant to conduct an operational analysis of possible design modifications to accommodate the LRT that will cross through this intersection.

A Public Information Centre presenting these alternatives to the community will be held next month.

**Date:** Wednesday, December 4

**Time:** Drop-in anytime between 4-8 p.m.

**Location:** Concordia Club, 429 Ottawa Street South, Kitchener

At the Public Information Centre, residents will be invited to review the display boards. Regional staff will be on hand to answer questions and address any concerns.

## Early Utility Construction

Early utility relocation work by Bell, Union Gas and Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro continues this month.

The majority of construction is taking place on King, between Francis in Kitchener and William in Waterloo. Moving utilities out of the way in advance of ION construction is important as it reduces the time needed to build the LRT infrastructure as well as lowers the overall cost of the project.

From November 4-20, Bell will be installing new duct infrastructure on King, between Green and Mt. Hope. Bell will also be building two new maintenance holes on King. The first, located at King and Allen (across from Allen Square), will be installed, November 11-19. The second, located on King, just south of Mt. Hope, will be installed November 20-28.

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro continues its work in Downtown Kitchener, with the focus on the relocation of a duct bank at Duke and Frederick as well as a new hydro vault at College and Duke. The relocated duct bank will be completed by mid-December, while the new hydro vault should be in place by late-January 2014.

Union Gas is working in UpTown Waterloo, with gas main relocations along Caroline (William to John) and John (Caroline to Dodds Lane). This work is expected to be completed by the end of the month. From November 11-29, Union Gas will be relocating gas mains on Erb Street West (Menno to Caroline).

## LRT Procurement Process

The Request for Proposal stage of the Region's LRT procurement process is coming to a close.

The Region, along with Infrastructure Ontario and its fairness monitor (P1 Consulting) have, over the past six months, attended numerous Commercially

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Confidential and Design-Technical meetings with the three short-listed teams in the running to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the ION LRT service. Final proposals from the three consortiums – GrandLinq, Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Transit Partners and Tricity Transit System – will be submitted later this year.

Evaluations of the proposals will take place thereafter. Regional staff will then prepare a report for Council indicating the preferred consortium. The report is expected to be presented in March for a final decision by Region Council.

## About ION

ION, the Region's rapid transit service, as approved by Council in June 2011, is a visionary plan that will fundamentally shape the community for the future by bringing Light Rail Transit (LRT) in two stages.

Stage 1, which is expected to open in 2017, includes a 19 km LRT route from Conestoga Mall to Fairview Park Mall, with stops in Downtown Kitchener, Grand River Hospital, UpTown Waterloo and both Universities. It also features a 17 km route of adapted Bus Rapid Transit (aBRT) from Fairview Park Mall to the Ainslie Street Terminal. The aBRT service is expected to begin operating in 2014-15.

Stage 2 will convert the aBRT line to LRT, creating a seamless 37 km ION service of 23 stops between Cambridge and Waterloo.

For more information on ION, visit [www.regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit).

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