The contemporary culture surrounding the classic air cooled Volkswagen distances itself from the discomfort of this history. Similarly, Kitchener Waterloo has a diluted relationship with its history as the Town of Berlin and the identity crisis during the first World War.



This complicated relationship is one of many rich cultural tapestries which help make up Kitchener Waterloo. Be it at Octoberfest celebrations or the KW Bug Out, a German heritage survives in this



Colin Carney





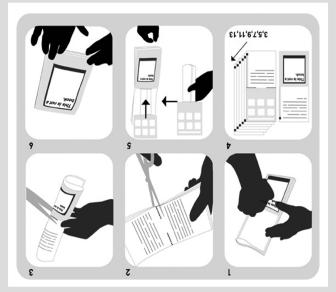


One such event is the KW Bug Out, held every year on the northern outskirts of town at Heidelberg. This weekend long Volkswagen gathering and competition, in its 27th year, is the longest running Canadian VW event of its kind.

and cultural events.

The region of Kitchener and Waterloo in Ontario has historically been related to a German ancestry since it's inception in 1854. Though no longer referred to as the Town of Berlin, KW retains some of its previous identity in various festivals

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KW Bug Out Colin Carney created on: Wed Apr 9 15:18:10 2008

A great gathering of well-loved and well-shined Bugs, Ghias, Things and Busses occurs each summer at the Optimists Club grounds. It has been organized by the Kitchener Waterloo Area Bug Club since 1981 and continues to grow in interest.



The culture of people which surrounds VW air-cooled classic cars and vans is a particularly dedicated crowd. In these festival circumstances, the iconic symbol of the VW emblem suggests belonging and community.

Over the festival weekend, enthusiasts trade used and new parts, share stories, camp out and catch up. The event is family friendly, drawing interest from a vast array of ages. The festivities carry on into the dark and commence early the next day. The weekend ends with a judging of restored vehicles in various classes and models.



region.



The Bug Out relates well to the regional relationship with Germany. Kitchener Waterloo retains a connection to a Germanic heritage even though its name was changed from Berlin during the political climate of World War I.

ugwe' that made it possible for $\ensuremath{\mathsf{WV}}$ to be a household legacy of Hitler. It was actually Hitler's influence of Bohemian lifestyle, despite being a vehicular as a triumph in German engineering and a symbol Similarly, air-cooled Volkswagens are celebrated

