

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.



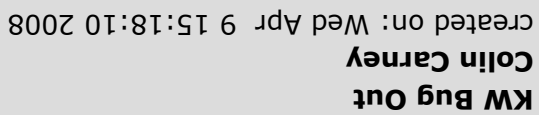
This complicated relationship is one of many rich cultural tapestries which help make up Kitchener Waterloo. Be it at Oktoberfest celebrations or the KW Bug Out, a German heritage survives in this

# KW Bug Out

Colin Carney



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 and cultural events. 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.



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region.

Similarly, air-cooled Volkswagens are celebrated as a triumph in German engineering and a symbol of Bohemian lifestyle, despite being a vehicular legacy of Hitler. It was actually Hitler's influence that made it possible for VW to be a household name.



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.