

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 region.



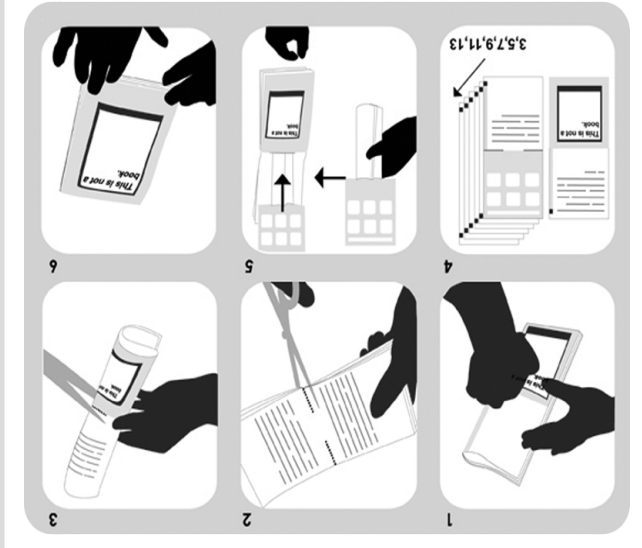
KW Bug Out

Colin Carney

DIFFUSION GENERATOR



The region of Kitchener and Waterloo in Ontario has historically been related to a German ancestry since its 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.



DIFFUSION eBooks are designed to be freely available to download, print out and share.

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.





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.



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.