

## **Press Release**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Christkindl Market December 3 - 7, 2003 Kitchener City Hall**

Kitchener's *Christkindl Market* is a feast for the eyes, ears and appetite.

In the tradition of 700-year-old, pre-Christmas markets in Germany, the Kitchener Market features free entertainment, indulgent foods and exquisite handicrafts. This year's Market will be held December 3-7 at Kitchener's City Hall, 200 King St. W.

This "festival of German Christmas" originated in southern Germany when farmers would haul their produce to town for sale and buy goods they couldn't make themselves. Because the markets were held during weeks leading up to Christmas they came to be called Christkindl (Christ child) markets.

As befits a city with a German heritage, the Kitchener Christkindl Market features musical groups singing carols in German, German foods and drink, and gifts and crafts made with European workmanship. To stand in City Hall square, with a cup of mulled wine in one hand and powdered fruit cake in the other while a choir sings Silent Night in German, is to be transported to a holy and unforgettable place.

The official opening of Christkindl (Thursday, Dec. 4) begins with a candlelight procession from Kitchener's Victoria Park at 6 p.m. to City Hall, a walk that takes about 15 minutes. The parade is led by Mary and Joseph as they go on search of an inn. Once the procession arrives at City Hall the Christkindl, dressed in a gold gown, declares "my market open" while thousands of lights burst alive on a 10-metre tree in the square. The beauty of the moment, the oohs and ahs of the crowd, and the looks of amazement and delight on the faces of the children, will thrill your spirit and awaken memories of a simpler time. Everyone is welcome to walk in the parade.

For details, call 519-741-2387 or visit [www.christkindlcanada.com](http://www.christkindlcanada.com).