

March 17, 2023 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society (WWDSS) is hosting a World Down Syndrome Day party to celebrate individuals with Down syndrome in our community.

World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated globally on March 21st ("3/21"). This date was chosen because people with Down syndrome have an extra copy (3 copies) of the 21st chromosome which occurs naturally at conception. World Down Syndrome Day was started in 2006 to increase awareness and to help improve the lives of those with Down Syndrome.

"This year, we are excited to connect with families, friends, community leaders and supporters again after a 3-year COVID break," says Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society Co-chair Janine Oosterveld. Many individuals with Down syndrome struggled with isolation during the pandemic. WWDSS has transitioned many programs and services back to in-person to allow individuals with Down syndrome and their families to connect with one another and with community support that includes friends and extended family, volunteer and employment opportunities, therapies, and programs. Community support makes a significant impact on the lives of individuals with Down syndrome, providing them the foundation to reach their full potential.

About the World Down Syndrome Day Party

Tuesday, March 21st 5:30 to 9:00pm Boston Pizza - Observation Lounge, Bingemans - 425 Bingemans Centre Dr Kitchener

About the Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society

The Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society (formerly the Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society) is a charitable, non-profit organization created in 1988 by parents of children with Down syndrome. Entirely run by volunteers, every dollar raised goes towards helping fund the various programs and services provided to our members. The Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society supports and informs individuals, families, and the community on issues related to Down syndrome. We advocate for persons with Down syndrome to lead healthy and active lives, enabling them to contribute their unique gifts to our community. To learn more visit www.wwdss.ca.

WWDSS Social Media:

Twitter: @WWDSS_WWDSS

Facebook: @WaterlooWellingtonDSS Instagram: @WWDSS_WWDSS

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