



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF WINDSOR PRESENTS



**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!** 



# 2025 CARROUSEL GREEK FESTIVAL

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# **About Us**

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# **Our Services**



























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# WELCOME - ΚΑΛΩΣ ΗΡΘΑΤΕ

# Join us for two weekends of Greek Food, drink, dessert, music and dancing... Opa!

Friday, June 13: noon to midnight Saturday, June 14: noon to midnight Sunday, June 15: noon to 10 pm

Friday, June 20: noon to midnight Saturday, June 21: noon to midnight Sunday, June 22: noon to 9 pm

Welcome and thank you for joining us at Greek Village. Whether it's your first time or not thank you for your support in making our village the annual success it is.

Congratulations to the Multi-Cultural Council on 50 successful years of Carousel of the Nations! Partnering with the MCC for the Greek Village for the last 50 years just makes sense. Our community was built by immigrants who took a risk to leave what they knew behind in hopes of something more. With the MCC helping immigrants like our founding members settle into their new surroundings and helping them find their way in Windsor/Essex how could we not partner with them to help pay it forward.

For the nearly 70 years that our community has been part of Windsor/Essex, we have watched not just our community grow but other cultures find roots in the region and a big part of that is because of the MCC and the work they do. The Carousel of the Nations is a big part of that work. Showcasing the vast diversification that the region has to offer, letting everyone in the region know that it's a region of many has helped pave the way for so many cultures to form roots here.

Speaking with Past Presidents and elders of the community I was reminded that festival events have always been a part of our community's blood, even before the Carousel of the Nations. From booths at the Freedom Festival, to booths across the river at Heart Plaza, for years we have used festivals to showcase the Hellenic Culture. So being part of this event for the last 50 years has always made sense.

From our community's humble beginnings in the basement of our first church at 65 Ellis Ave, to our current facilities to which you join us at today, our community has used the Greek Village as a staple in not just our own community, but also in the community abroad. We look forward every year in welcoming you all and showcasing the Hellenic Culture through our food, and dance, teaching the Greek Orthodox way of live with our Church tours. The culture and faith all tie into a way of life that Greeks of lived by for many years and we showcase it each year at Greek Village. Philotimo. What is Philotimo? It's a word that was no true definition and the best way to describe it is, "A philosophy embraced by the Greek people that embodies empathy, compassion, and generosity". There is no real way to explain or describe it. It simply has to be lived and experienced. So, with that, I hope you have all throughout the year experienced Philotimo from the Greek Village and continue to do so over the next 6 days and for years to come.

I will wrap this up by saying, καλωσορίσατε, welcome, enjoy yourselves and again, congratulations to the MCC for 50 years of Carousel of the Nations, and as we say in Greek να τα εκατοστήσεις, to 100 years.

# Tom Papantonis, President

Greek Orthodox Community of Windsor



# GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF WINDSOR HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH HELLENIC CULTURAL CENTER

3052 Walker Road, Windsor, ON N8W 3R3 519-252-3435 info@gocw.ca

Dear Friends,

It is with a full heart that I welcome you to the 50th Anniversary of our Greek Village at the Carousel of Nations. What a blessing it is to reach this milestone together. For half a century, our Community has shared its culture, hospitality, and Orthodox faith with joy and love, and it's all been possible because of you.

Thank you! Truly, thank you for your support, your presence, your prayers, and for some, your countless hours of volunteering over the years. Whether you've been with us from the beginning or are visiting for the first time, you are part of our story, and we are grateful.

This year, we have something special to share with you. I warmly invite you to come by our Church and experience the new iconography that now graces our walls. These holy images are not just decorations. They are a beautiful reminder of God's presence among us, and they draw our hearts upward in prayer and awe. I hope they bring you the same peace and inspiration they've brought to our Church.

As we celebrate this joyful occasion, may we continue to grow in love for one another and in faith in the One who holds all things together, our Lord Jesus Christ.

With love and gratitude, Rev. Fr. Evangelos Aravantinos Greek Orthodox Priest of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church







"CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE GREEK COMMUNITY FOR BEING AN ESSENTIAL PART OF CARROUSEL OF THE NATIONS FOR FIFTY WONDERFUL YEARS. WE ARE SO PROUD OF THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE BUILT TOGETHER.

WE THANK THE GREEK COMMUNITY FOR ALL YOU DO TO MAKE WINDSOR-ESSEX A BETTER AND MORE WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL. THANK YOU, AND ENJOY THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION!"

Fred Francis
MCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# **CONGRATULATIONS ON 50 YEARS!**



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**Hellenic Cultural Museum** 

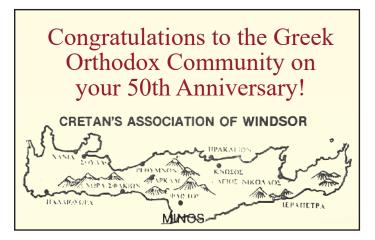
Visit our displays during
Carrousel at the Holy Cross
Greek Orthodox Church
Open daily until 9 pm each
day of the Festival.



# **Holy Cross Church Tours**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Meet Rev. Fr. Evangelos Arvantinos, parish priest of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church. Fr. Evangelos welcomes visitors for a tour of our Church on each day of the Greek Festival, starting at 5:00 pm. He will share information about Orthodox iconography, Church architecture, Byzantine chants, and much more!



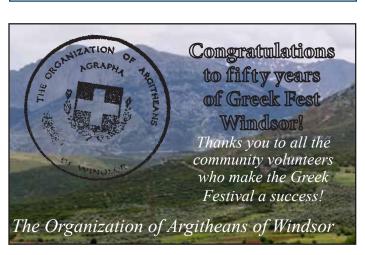
# Congratulations of 50 Years of Carousel of Nations Greek Festival!

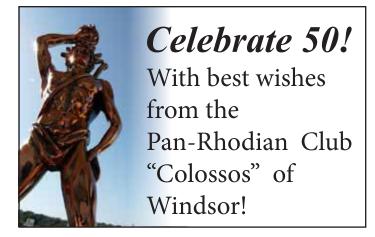
Dimitrios Papantonis & Family Nick & Angela Brokalakis Peter Rigakos & Family GOCW Senior Association

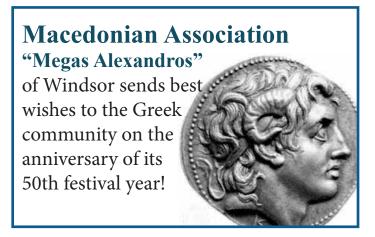
# Congratulations

The Windsor Chapters of Daughters of Penelope & AHEPA congratulate the Greek Community of Windsor on their 50 years of celebrating Hellenic culture at the Greek Festival!









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# **Greek Community's Terpsichorean Dance Group**

Terpsichorean Dance Group GOCW Summary The Terpsichorean Dance Group is our community's official dance group. The name of the group is derived from "Terpsichore", the Greek Muse and goddess of dance and chorus. The dance group was established in the 1960's by Mr. Emmanuel Vichos, who directed the group for many years. Under the directorship of many wonderful directors and instructors through the years, the group has continued to perform together until the present time. Dance plays an important role in Greek life. Throughout history Greeks danced to prepare for war, to celebrate victories, at religious festivals, weddings, etc. The dances that our groups perform are deep rooted in the traditions and customs of the various regions of Greece. Every dance has a story. We enjoy telling each story and expressing our love for our beautiful culture, dance, music and costumes.



# **Guest Performers**

The Greek Village celebrates the spirit of multiculturalism and warmly welcomes these special guest performers!

# **Slovak Dance Groups**

The Slovak Domovina Dancers, established in 1983, is sponsored by Branch 28 of the Canadian Slovak League. They are a senior dance group with members 15 years of age and over. Under the direction of Irene Timko and instructor Anne (Palenkas) Chauvin, they have actively represented Windsor's Slovak community, participating in Slovak and ethnocultural festivals in Canada, the United States and in Europe.

# **Tatry Dance Ensemble (Polish)**

Tatry Dance Ensemble is a Polish cultural and folkloric song and dance organization established in 1972. With almost 100 dances, ranging in age from 3 to 25, the ensemble performs at events throughout Canada and the U.S. Choreographer of the senior groups is Thomas Schemanski and they have performed internationally, including shows in Poland and Russia.

# Entertainment Schedule



# Friday, June 13

6:00 Pitsirikia: Traditional Dances
 6:30 Junior: Traditional Greek Dances
 7:30 Intermediate: Traditional Greek Dances
 8:30 Senior: Traditional Greek Dances
 10:00 Senior: Tayerna

# Saturday, June 14

6:00 Pitsirikia: Traditional Dances
6:30 Junior: Traditional Greek Dances
7:30 Intermediate: Traditional Greek Dances
8:30 Senior: Traditional Greek Dances
10:00 Senior: Tayerna

# Sunday, June 15

1:30 Solvakian Group
4:00 Rhodian Group
5:00 Pitsirikia: Traditional Dances
6:00 Junior: Traditional Greek Dances
7:00 Intermediate: Traditional Greek Dances
8:00 Senior: Traditional Greek Dances

# Friday, June 20

6:00 Pitsirikia: Traditional Dances
 6:30 Junior: Traditional Greek Dances
 7:30 Intermediate: Traditional Greek Dances
 8:30 Senior: Traditional Greek Dances
 10:00 Senior: Taverna

# Saturday, June 21

3:30 Polish Group
6:00 Pitsirikia: Traditional Dances
6:30 Junior: Traditional Greek Dances
7:30 Intermediate: Traditional Greek Dances
8:30 Senior: Traditional Greek Dances
10:00 Senior: Tayerna

# Sunday, June 22

4:00	Rhodian Group
5:00	Pitsirikia: Traditional Dances
6:00	Junior: Traditional Greek Dances
7:00	Intermediate: Traditional Greek Dances
8:00	Senior: Traditional Greek Dances



Performing at festivals and event celebrations in Canada and the U.S., Mythos Band provides the finest in live Greek music - and they are based right here in Windsor, Ontario! Giannis Papadontas (Guitar/ Vocals); Chris Nomikos (Bouzouki); Chris Stathis (Drums).



# Mythos Featuring Special Guest!





# **Greek Festival Menu**



**Souvlaki** (9) ~ 5 oz of fresh pork tenderloin, skewered and barbequed to perfection; served on Grecian pita with Tzatziki, tomato and onions. Souvlaki on a stick (7) also available a la carte.



**Tzatziki or Greek Pita** à la carte (2 ea) ~ made with the famous Greek

yoghurt, cucumber, and garlic, tzatziki is now available separately to enjoy with "souvlaki on a stick" or with Greek Pita



Gyros (8)

~ our most popular item (made from lamb and beef) served on Grecian pita



**Grecian Fries (4)** 

~ tossed with our special seasonings!



Saganaki - Flaming Cheese OPA! (8)

Grilled Kefalograviera cheese served up on bread, flamed with brandy (OPA!) and topped with a splash of lemon mouth-watering delicious!



**Spinach or Cheese Triangle "Pies" (4)** 

~ wrapped and baked in phyllo pastry



**Greek Salad (6)** 

~ always fresh and crisp, with feta, Kalamata olives and our own Greek salad dressing





**Baklava & Assortment of Pastries (5)** 

~ traditional Hellenic homemade pastries

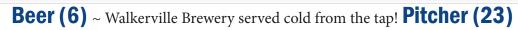
# Honeyballs "Loukoumades" (6)

~ pastry made from deep fried dough soaked in a honey syrup and dusted in cinnamon—a Greek Festival exclusive!

# **Under The Taverna Tent**







**Greek Wine (7)** ~ Makedonikos Red or White

**Apelia:** Ruby red colour; soft plum & berry aroma with an earthy note; light body and flavour; crisp finish

**Pelee:** Pale straw/yellow colour; melon, citrus & green tone; light body, slightly green fruit flavour

**Spirits (7)** ~ Canadian Club Whiskey, Smirnoff Vodka, Bacardi White Rum, Beefeater Gin

**Special Offerings (7): Ouzo** ~ an anise-flavoured aperitif and **Metaxa** ~ Greek Brandy

**Coolers (8)** ~ Assortment of alchoholic coolers.

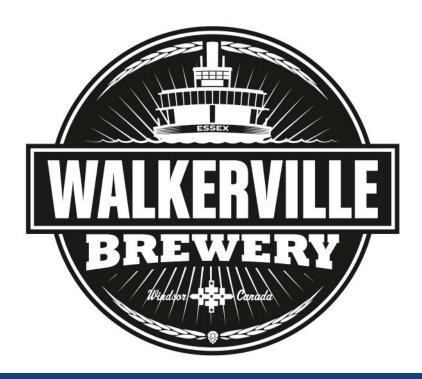
Water (1) or Pop (2) ~ Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Ginger Ale, 7-Up, Orange Crush, Iced Tea, Lemonade

**Frappe Greek Coffee (5)** ~ a popular Greek iced coffee drink made with instant coffee, water, sugar, and milk shaken together, poured over ice with creamy foam top.





# Drink responsibly and arrive home safely!









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# Congratulations!

From Louis Kanavos and everyone at



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Best wishes to the GOCW on your 50th Anniversary.

Dr. Christos Spirou, M.D. & Dr. Alexandra Spirou, M.D.

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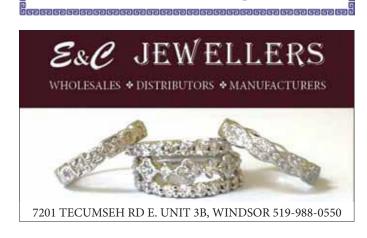




Congratulations to the Greek Festival on successful 50 years!

Michael G. Reboulis, CPA CA LPA Chartered Professional Accountant 915 Shepherd St. E., Windsor 519-256-9284

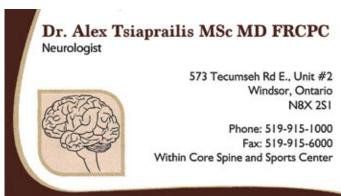
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# Warp Drive Race Park Wishes you another 50+ years of success!







# Celebrating 50 YEARS of Feritage

Dear brothers and sisters of the Greek Orthodox community,

Congratulations on 50 years of Greek Fest - a half-century of sharing your **vibrant culture**, **timeless traditions**, **and generous spirit** with Windsor-Essex.

Your dedication, hospitality, and faith have left a lasting imprint on this community. Through music, dance, food, and fellowship, you've brought people together, built bridges across generations, and reminded us all of the **strength found in unity, family, and heritage**.

This milestone is a testament to your hard work, love of tradition, and tireless devotion. You've not only preserved your culture - you've enriched our entire region by sharing it so openly.

Cheers to many more years.

Opa!

Goran Todorovic Owner / Broker of Record



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# Families First



on celebrating 50 years of faith, heritage, and unity. This golden jubilee is a testament to the strength, dedication, and spirit of a community that has kept its traditions alive while contributing so much to the broader Windsor area. Here's to many more years of growth, cultural pride, and community blessings!

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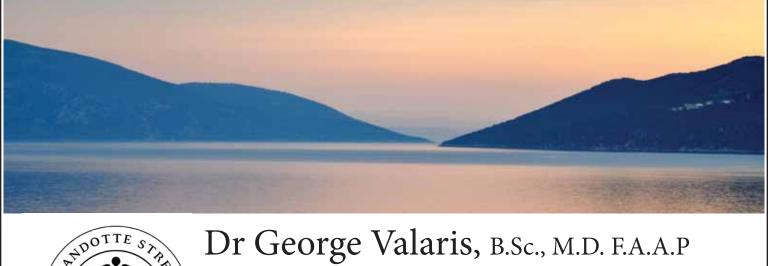
# Congratulations! Here's to 50 more years!



Dr. Nikolaos Koutelas B.Sc., B.Comm., M.D., C.C.F.P.

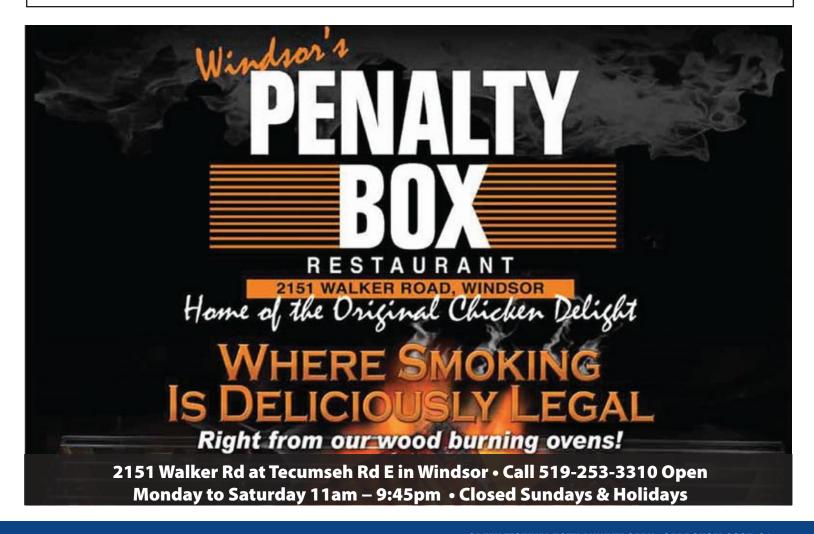
Family Practice

Here's to your dedication for 50 years. All the best.





Dr George Valaris, B.Sc., M.D. F.A.A.F Wyandotte Street Pediatrics 1736 Wyandotte Street W. Windsor P: 519-256-8000 F: 519-256-4707





#### Current **Philoptochos Projects and** Support

- National Projects
- Support to the Ecumen-
- Theological Academy
- Missions
- Orthodox Voice
- Local community projects (Hiatus House, Hospice, Food banks)
- Icons, furniture and liturgical items for our beautiful church
- Families in need
- Greek School
- Any many more!
- 2024 Donations to the community: ~\$18,500

#### **Current Executive** Board

Olga Carathanasis

President

#### Marina Skaris

1st Vice President

#### Bessie Stamatis-Antel

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

#### Fotini lossifidis

Treasurer

#### Irini Ditouras

**Recording Secretary** 

#### Pam Petropoulos-Parent

Corresponding Secretary

#### Vassiliki Kosmidis

Maria Michos, Penelope Zikantas, Maria Papadopoulos, Theofania

Members

# Philoptochos (Friend of the Poor)

# **History**

Did you know that the Windsor Chapter of Philoptochos has been around for over 80 years?

In 1939, before the Greek Community of Windsor became a formal organization, a group of ladies from Windsor-Essex came together and established an Educational and Philanthropic Group named. O PLATON

The mission of PLATON was to educate and serve the local community through charity and good deeds.



In 1955, the members of the PLATO society donated \$1500 (1/2 of the cost) to the newly formed Greek Community of Windsor to purchase the property on 65 Ellis St E. On that land the first Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Windsor was established.

In 1981, PLATO Society officially became Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, PLATO. Regardless of the name change, the group has always stayed true to its values, a mission of charity and philanthropy, always helping all people in need.

# Congratulations!

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, PLATO would like to congratulate the Greek Orthodox Community of Windsor for 50 successful years of hosting the Greek Village for Carrousel of **Nations** 



We thank you for your tireless work and value our collaboration for the advancement and improvement of our community!

We will always support you!



Sechopoulos Group has been proudly supporting this festival – the biggest village of Windsor's Carrousel of Nations event – and the Greek Orthodox Community of Windsor for more than 10 years.

Your peace of mind is our priority. We are with you every step of the way.

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