

TEDxWaterloo Timeline

2010

- In 2010, the first TEDxWaterloo event was held in Kitchener at the Gig Music Hall. Twelve speakers including Ray LaFlamme, Terry O'Reilly and Paul Saltzman enthralled a Waterloo region audience of 400 as they explored the theme *"Tomorrow Started Yesterday"*.

2011

- The next year, lead organizers Ramy Nassar and Matt Gorbet "go big" and expand the scope of the TEDxWaterloo 2011 event and book Waterloo Region's premier event space – The Centre In The Square in Kitchener. TEDxWaterloo 2011 "The Uncharted" is a huge success with a sold out crowd of almost 1000 and features speakers and performers from across Canada and the US. From astronauts (Roberta Bondar) and a teenaged sailor (Abby Sunderland) to a world-class conductor (Edwin Outwater) and Mt. Everest adventurer (JF Carrey), the crowd was mesmerized. The event is livestreamed to thousands of viewers worldwide and features several local remote locations where people can gather to watch TEDxWaterloo in groups.
- September 2011, preparations begin for TEDxWaterloo 2012 where a hundred volunteers commit to doing their bit – and more – to make the March 21, 2012 event a success.
- November 2011 sees the introduction of TEDxWaterloo Adventures and TEDxWaterloo Salons. This TEDxWaterloo-branded and organized events further connect the community with TEDxWaterloo. Paul Saltzman, creator of the award-winning documentary *Prom Night in Mississippi* screens his film for a keen audience and holds a lively Q&A afterwards.
- Two weeks later, TEDxWaterloo Salon debuts with *The Coffee House*. This tightly focused evening features an in-depth discussion on the politics of eating locally, the power of the chef in North American culture and the rites and rituals that go into a cup of coffee.

2012

- February 2012, **TEDxWaterloo Teachers** is launched. This is a TED video database designed by and for teachers in Ontario high schools and are interested in showcasing TED Talks in their classroom as an avenue for experiential learning. Curated by fellow teachers and supported by the TEDxWaterloo team, these TED Talks have been organized and are easily searchable based on their relevance to the Ontario secondary school curriculum.
- For the first time, a satellite location expressly for secondary students is housed in the Chrysalids Theatre in Kitchener. Almost 400 students will spend March 21, 2012 watching a livestream of TEDxWaterloo 2012, with a drop in visit from high school student Mathew Ho, who is a speaker at the main event. This is the first major interaction between the Waterloo Region District School Board and TEDxWaterloo Teachers, part of TEDxWaterloo's Education Outreach program.
- TEDxWaterloo Breakfast is introduced: Participants can meet up at two local restaurants – The Walper Hotel and The Forty One for a pre-event breakfast to meet other TEDxWaterloo people. The speakers have provided thought-provoking questions that will kick start the conversation each table.
- Approximately 1400 participants, volunteers and organizers take over The Centre in the Square on March 21, 2012 for the eight-hour event featuring 12 speakers and performers.
- The event is livestreamed worldwide including the Accelerator Centre in Waterloo's high tech Park and Wilfrid Laurier University.
- At 8 pm, with the sessions complete, an After Party kicks off where the fun – and the interactions continue. TEDxWaterloo 2012: DIS CONNECTED is officially off the hook.