

**THE ARTS
ARE WHAT
WE ARE**

**STRATFORD
ARTS**

Destination Stratford
47 Downie Street, Stratford, ON N5A 1W7
P: 519.271.5140 T: 1.800.561.7926
hello@visitstratford.ca

Lights On Stratford Committed to Year-Round Overhead and Bridge Lights at Tom Patterson Island with Sponsor Support

Community support continues to keep the lights on in Stratford's park system



Photo courtesy of Chris Arthurs Photography

Stratford, Ontario, October 23, 2023 – For the past 2 years there's been a special glow emanating from Tom Patterson Island. Lights On Stratford first installed overhead and colourful bridge lighting in mid-2021 as a "summer pop-up" light display. It has remained in place ever since.

Destination Stratford, who manages all aspects of the Lights On Stratford winter festival of lights, is responsible for maintaining the island's additional year-round lighting, including bulb replacement, light strands repair, cables and supports after windstorms, updating custom LED bridge lighting supplied by MOSS LED, as well as yearly engineering and stress testing of poles and wires suspending the overhead lights.

**THE ARTS
ARE WHAT
WE ARE**

**STRATFORD
ARTS**

Destination Stratford
47 Downie Street, Stratford, ON N5A 1W7
P: 519.271.5140 T: 1.800.561.7926
hello@visitstratford.ca

“Stratford is incredibly fortunate to have an amazing downtown park system, and adding creative outdoor lighting to Tom Patterson Island really helps our community celebrate this special place,” said Zac Gribble, Executive Director, Destination Stratford and Festival Director, Lights On Stratford. *“The visual draw of the colourful bridge lighting combined with the overhead lights above our Stratford Al Fresco tables helps to make the island a uniquely inviting place for all seasons, and we’re thrilled with the overwhelmingly positive response from local residents and visitors.”*

Maintaining light displays across the city comes at a cost, and Stratford’s supportive business community are instrumental in supporting Lights On Stratford’s community light installations. The 2023/24 Gold Sponsor supporting the year-round lighting on Tom Patterson Island is Orr Insurance & Investment.

“The Orr Family is inextricably tied to the Parks System of Stratford with great grandfather, R. Thomas Orr known as the Grandfather of the Parks system, and I’ve just finished serving 20 years as Chair of the Parks Board. It is our pleasure to support Lights On Stratford as they continue to find new and creative ways to make the park system more accessible to the community,” said Rick Orr.



Photo by Little Big Creative



Destination Stratford
47 Downie Street, Stratford, ON N5A 1W7
P: 519.271.5140 T: 1.800.561.7926
hello@visitstratford.ca

In addition to multiple provincial and regional awards received by Lights On Stratford, the City of Stratford was recently recognized with the national 2023 WinterLife award from Communities In Bloom, with the winter lights festival included as a major component. *"It's truly remarkable what can happen when a community comes together to create beauty and joy, especially in the depths of winter,"* added Gribble.

Lights On Stratford's unique approach to bringing artistic light installations to the city's public spaces is captured in its manifesto:

- We bring light and joy to Stratford's public spaces.
- We are free to the public and accessible for everyone to participate.
- We are a cultural anchor tenant that enables additional events and experiences.
- We celebrate and embrace winter.
- We help grow a vibrant year-round visitor economy for the region.
- We improve the quality of life within our community.

Prepare to be mesmerized this winter when interactive displays will light up nightly Thursday through Sunday from 5-10pm. The 4th annual Lights On Stratford is free to the public and set to launch on December 15th, 2023 until January 13th, 2024. Visit lightsonstratford.ca for more details.

###

For more information, please email hello@visitstratford.ca.