

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World Premiere of **BIRDS OF A FEATHER** to take flight at the 6th Annual Lights On Stratford Winter Festival

Stratford's Tom Patterson Island will be the winter nesting grounds for six larger-than-life interactive bird light art sculptures



Artist rendering of Snowy Owl courtesy of Amigo & Amigo and Lights On Stratford

Stratford, Ontario, August 25, 2025 – Now entering its 6th year, the multi award-winning [Lights On Stratford](#) annual winter festival by [Destination Stratford](#) launches on December 12th and will once again transform Stratford's heritage downtown and park system with luminous art and interactive light installations over the course of six weekends in the darkest and coldest part of the year.

The Lights On Stratford 2025/26 theme is **RADIANCE**. Officially defined as a “*type of glowing: either from a light source like the sun or a healthy, beaming person,*” event organizers extend the concept of radiance to reflect a community that comes together on a winter's night to celebrate art and light.

In addition to the recently announced Canadian premiere of CHRONOHARP in Market Square, **BIRDS OF A FEATHER** will be unveiled on Tom Patterson Island for its world premiere at Lights On Stratford as a new interactive light art installation owned by Destination Stratford and created in collaboration with international interactive art pioneers Amigo & Amigo.

“BIRDS OF A FEATHER is about celebrating community, creativity, and the resilience of Canadian winters,” said Simone Chua, Director of Amigo & Amigo. *“Our collaboration with Lights On Stratford has grown over several years, built on a mutual love of creating transformative public art, and it has been a joyful partnership in bringing this vision to life.”*

The six supersized birds range from 6.5 feet to 13 feet in height with each internally lit bird featuring a beautiful soundscape and an interactive artistic bird call initiated by talking, whistling or singing to the bird.

“Lights On Stratford is all about creating experiences together, and our partnership with Amigo & Amigo brings that spirit to life,” said Kaileigh Krysztofiak, General Manager, Lights On Stratford. *“With original Canadian elements like an interactive audio composition, we’re celebrating local creativity and inviting audiences to join the fun in the same sound-reactive way they love with our LightWall installation. Get your bird calls ready!”*

The **BIRDS OF A FEATHER** species were selected for their radiant beauty, evocative bird calls, and that their wintering grounds include Stratford and the surrounding region. Local birders will be thrilled with sightings of the Black-Capped Chickadee, Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Cardinal and Snowy Owl, both on Tom Patterson Island and in the wild.



Artist rendering of Cardinal courtesy of Amigo & Amigo and Lights On Stratford

“Lights On Stratford continues to evolve, and our co-creation partnership with Amigo & Amigo for BIRDS OF A FEATHER allows us to share these magnificent interactive birds with our community beyond our winter lights festival for future programming and popups across Stratford,” said Zac Gribble, Executive Director, Destination Stratford and Festival Director, Lights On Stratford. *“We’re also excited for our BIRDS OF A FEATHER to occasionally migrate from Stratford to bring delight to other communities, destinations and light festivals before their return flight home to our city.”*

Destination Stratford looks forward to collaborating with local schools and community groups to name each of the six birds, celebrating our shared creativity while uncovering the unique characteristics, histories, and stories of each bird species.

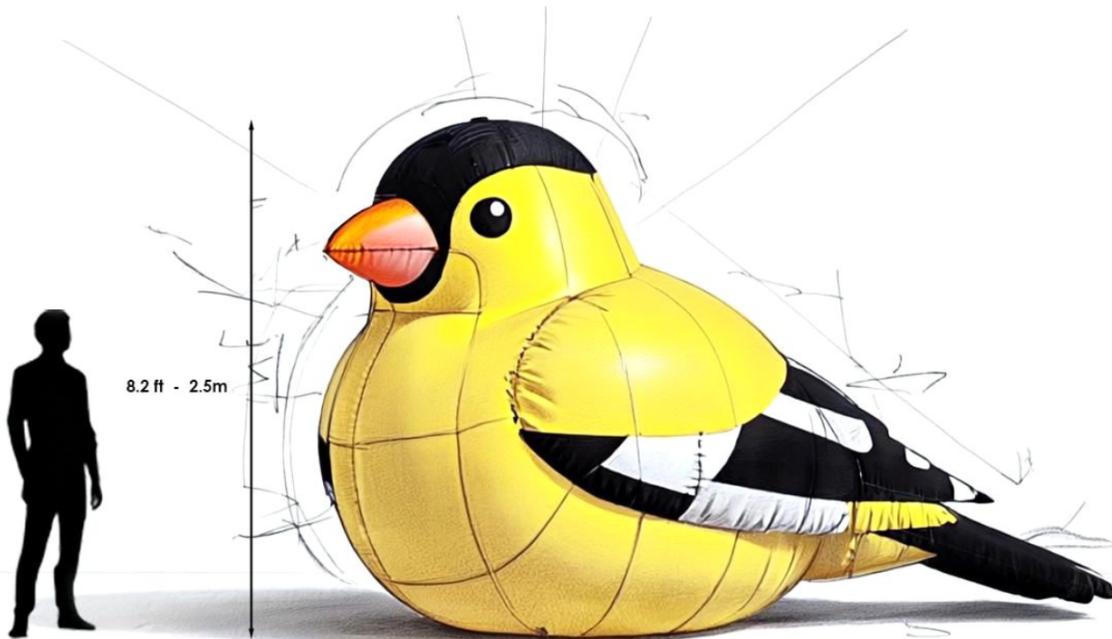


Artist rendering of Downy Woodpecker courtesy of Amigo & Amigo and Lights On Stratford

As a result of embarking on this creative project, Destination Stratford is collaborating with [Nature Canada](#) with their [Bird Friendly Cities](#) initiative. In the last 50 years, North American bird populations have dropped by more than 25%, and BIRDS OF A FEATHER will also be used to highlight the importance of reversing this trend.

“Resident and migratory birds in Canada need our help. There are many ways community members and elected officials can take action to save bird lives in the spaces we share with them. From habitat protection, threat reduction and community outreach we all have a role to play in conserving birds,” said Autumn

Jordan, Nature Canada's Bird Friendly City Organizer. "As Stratford works towards becoming a Bird Friendly Certified City in advance of the Lights On Stratford Festival, I am delighted to collaborate together on this important work to protect, defend, and restore bird populations in Stratford."



Artist rendering of Goldfinch courtesy of Amigo & Amigo and Lights On Stratford

"RTO4 is pleased to support *BIRDS OF A FEATHER*, a project that exemplifies the power of tourism innovation through culture and art. Creative initiatives like this not only enrich the visitor experience but also strengthen the unique identity of our region, making it a more vibrant and compelling destination for all," said Andrea Gardi, Executive Director of RTO4.

Prepare to be mesmerized this winter when interactive displays will light up nightly Thursday through Sunday from 5-10pm. The 6th annual Lights On Stratford is free to the public and set to launch on December 12th, 2025 until January 18th, 2026. Visit lightsonstratford.ca for more details, upcoming announcements and sponsorship opportunities. And in the interim, be sure to check out the recently released [5 YEARS OF LIGHTS ON STRATFORD](#) video.

Lights On Stratford is made possible through the support of its partners and the generosity of its community sponsors. It is financially assisted by Experience Ontario as well as Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, programs of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. Opportunities are



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still available for organizations wishing to be part of this season's festival and connect with thousands of visitors. To learn more about sponsorship, please visit lightsonstratford.ca/sponsor or contact sponsor@lightsonstratford.ca.

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