

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A GLOWING TRIBUTE TO STRATFORD'S HEART



Stratford, Ontario, September 25, 2025 - Lights On Stratford's larger-than-life HEART was installed late last week at the historic Grand Trunk Railway site, serving as a vibrant and symbolic tribute to the heart of Stratford.

"Animating the Grand Trunk site through creative placemaking has been a clear direction from Council and the Ad Hoc Committee, and the Heart is a beautiful example of this work in action," said Emily Robson, Corporate Initiatives Lead, City of Stratford. *"It invites residents to see the site differently — not just as a piece of our history, but as a space filled with possibility and potential."*

This installation is part of a broader community initiative called **Heart of Stratford**, launching officially on October 1st, through a partnership between [Destination Stratford](#) and the [Stratford Public Library](#). The initiative invites community members to share reflections, memories, and ideas to help shape a collective vision of our community's heart. A dedicated heart display will be featured on the main floor of the Stratford Public Library, where visitors can post personal messages using heart-shaped sticky notes.



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In addition to the library display, popup HEART stations will appear at various locations throughout the city, and an online submission form will be available via the [Stratford Public Library's website](#), ensuring everyone has an opportunity to participate and share what's in their heart.

Many Stratford residents will recognize the iconic HEART, which has appeared in several prominent locations across the city, including the Stratford Festival Marquee, Destination Stratford's Welcome Centre, and the Bandshell on Veterans Drive. Originally created in 2020 through a collaboration between Lights On Stratford and the Stratford Festival's Carpentry Department, the HEART was brought to life with the support and expertise of Andrew Mestern, helping transform a shared vision into a powerful symbol of community and connection.

"Every community has a heart, a place where its spirit lives and its stories come alive," said Krista Robinson, CEO | Library Director, Stratford Public Library. "The Heart of Stratford campaign is a chance to celebrate what makes this city unique, through the voices of the people who call it home. I invite you to stop by the heart installation, join the conversation, and share what you believe is the heart of Stratford."

"The HEART light art installation has become a recognizable symbol of Stratford's community spirit and a reminder of how art and public space can come together to foster connection," said Zac Gribble, Executive Director, Destination Stratford. "We're proud to collaborate with local partners to bring this initiative to life and we invite everyone in our community to share what's in their heart."

The HEART installation features a rotating display of colours and will remain at the Grand Trunk site through to October 17th. On Tuesday, September 30, it will transition to orange in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Following its time at the Grand Trunk, the HEART will be relocated to its next installation site at the Bandshell on Veterans Drive in preparation for the upcoming 6th annual [Lights On Stratford](#) winter festival of lights.

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