STRATFORD OPENS THE DOOR TO HISTORY, LAUNCHING THE 25TH SEASON OF DOORS OPEN ONTARIO IN 2026

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(Stratford, ON) In partnership with the City of Stratford, Destination Stratford is pleased to welcome back **Doors Open Stratford** for Doors Opens 25th season and kicking off the 2026 calendar of participating communities. This landmark weekend invites residents and visitors to explore Stratford's most cherished spaces like never before, offering rare access and fresh perspectives on the sites that define the city's history, culture, and community spirit.

"We're thrilled to welcome Doors Open back to Stratford and to lead the way as the first Ontario community to kick off the 2026 season," said Christina Phillips, Senior Manager, Destination Development & Operations at Destination Stratford. *"April has shaped up to be an exciting month, with the return of live theatre and musical performances, alongside engaging Stratford After Dark programming. It's the perfect opportunity to discover the hidden stories and spaces that make our city so unique this spring."*

Part of a provincewide heritage and tourism initiative, Doors Open Ontario provides free public access to remarkable heritage properties across the province. From architecturally significant buildings and storied cultural landmarks to natural spaces and vital infrastructure, the program shines a spotlight on the rich histories and vibrant stories that define Ontario's communities. In Stratford, that spirit comes to life through immersive experiences that celebrate the character, craftsmanship and community pride woven into the city's past and present.

"*Doors Open Stratford is a free invitation to step inside spaces that aren't always open to the public or always free to visit, and to hear the stories of our community*," says Alanna Bowes, Culture, Sport & Sponsorship Coordinator, City of Stratford. "*It's not only about opening doors, but about sharing the history, culture, and voices behind them. We invite everyone to come join the experience.*"

Don't miss the incredible lineup of participating Stratford sites and FREE tours taking place **April 18–19, 2026 between 10am-4pm.** We're excited to once again open the doors to these unique spaces and invite the community to explore the stories, architecture and experiences that make Stratford so special.

Participating locations include:

- **Destination Stratford – Doors Open Stratford Welcome Centre**, 47 Downie St.
- **The Blowes Building**, 32 Wellington St.
- **Gallery Stratford**, 54 Romeo St. S
- **Jobsite Brewing Co.**, 45 Cambria St.
- **Copperlight @ Knox Presbyterian Church** — featuring *Doors Open After Dark*, 142 Ontario St.

- **Orr Insurance & Investment** (Saturday only), 50 Cobourg St.
- **Perth County Courthouse** (Saturday only), 1 Huron St.
- **The Queen's Cue Stratford Hotel**, 161 Ontario St.
- **Stratford City Hall**, 1 Wellington St.
- **Stratford-Perth Archives** (Saturday only), 4273 Huron Rd.
- **The Stratford Perth Museum**, 4275 Huron Rd.
- **Stratford Public Library** (Saturday only), 19 St. Andrew St.
- **Stratford Walking Tours** (departing from Stratford City Hall at scheduled times), 1 Wellington St.

While **Doors Open Stratford** invites residents and visitors to explore the city's historic sites and hidden gems by day, the experience continues after hours with two special *Doors Open After Dark* events.

A Night of Music & Community at Copperlight brings together world music, classical, and sacred performances alongside an optional three-course dining experience. An unforgettable evening of artistry and connection. Learn more: https://www.copperlight.ca

Film lovers can also attend a special screening presented by the Stratford Film Festival at City Hall: ***You Are Here: A Come from Away Story*** (2018), a powerful Canadian documentary about Gander, Newfoundland's response to 9/11. Details: https://www.stratfordfilmfestival.com

"*After the incredible response to Doors Open in 2015, we are beyond thrilled to see this event return to our city. At Orr Insurance, our roots in Stratford go back five generations, and our office at 50 Cobourg Street is more than just a place of business, it's a piece of local history,*" says Jeff Orr. "We can't wait to open our doors once again in 2026 and share the heritage of the Orr family home with our neighbours and visitors alike."

For a full list of event happenings: visitstratford.ca/doorsopen. Doors Open Ontario details can be found at www.doorsopenontario.on.ca

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