Friends of the London Public Library

2026 Impact

October 6, 2026



Summer READ Program: Summer Literacy Facilitators

$65,000 in support in 2026

- 247 children supported in July and August with weekly, one-on-one reading support
- At Beacock, Bostwick, Byron, Cherryhill, Crouch, Jalna, Masonville, Pond Mills, Sherwood, Stoney Creek, with French reading help at 2 locations
- 13 Facilitators hired: CSJ grants funded half salaries for 6 positions. Friends funding allowed us to fund full salaries for 7 positions and the remaining half salaries for 6 positions.

Impact of Summer READ

"I just wanted to let you know how much [child] enjoys coming to see you. He is so excited for the read program every week.

I have noticed he has gone from being reluctant to try to sound words out to much more willing to try to sound words out. We have definitely seen his confidence grow.“

Mom of a son who stopped reading because he was too scared to make mistakes: “We’ve seen a huge improvement in his confidence. I hope you know how impactful you and your sessions have been”

Rose, age 6, who originally said she hated reading: “Can we read FOUR books next week?”

“It’s been amazing to see how much her confidence has grown, moving from being hesitant to genuinely getting excited about picking out and reading books” Parent of a child who claimed she hated reading at the start of the summer!







Children's Activity Tables and Chairs

$7,000 in support in 2026

- Tables and chairs for the children's area at Crouch Branch Library
- Age-appropriate spaces for children to read, study, complete homework, and spend time at the library.
- Previously, older children at Crouch relied on meeting room tables and a mix of mismatched chairs for homework and other activities.
- The new furniture has created a more comfortable, welcoming, and cohesive children's area and provides young library users with a space designed specifically for them.



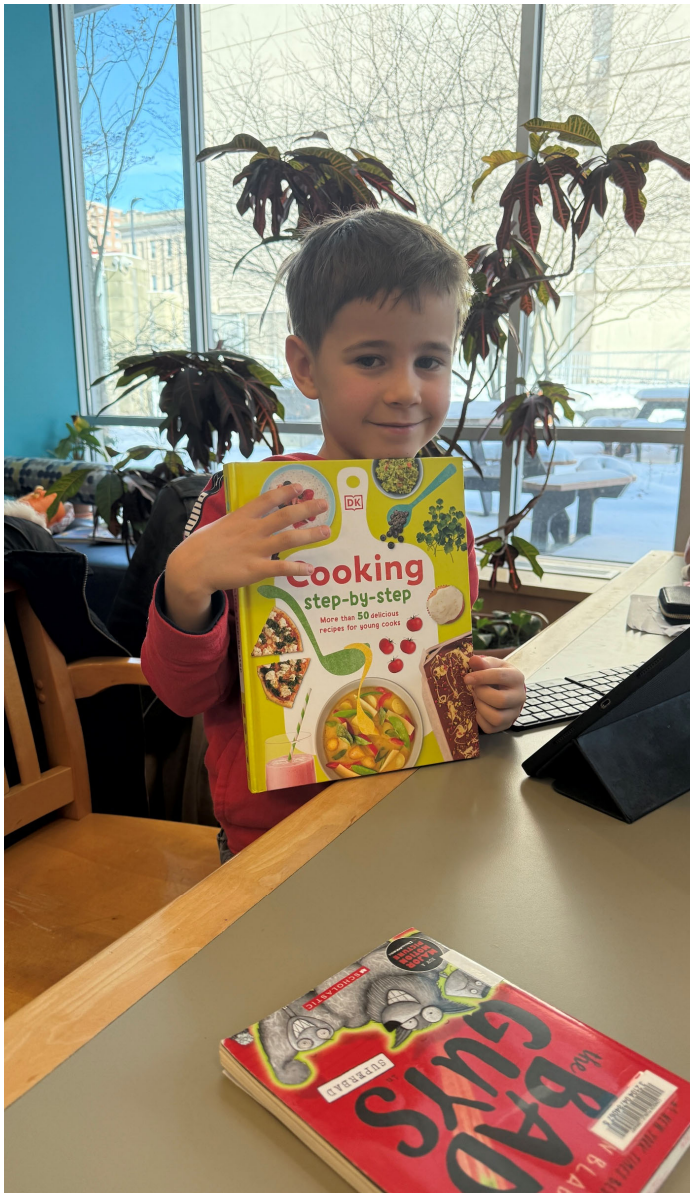
Family Literacy Day

$5,000 in support in 2026

($5,000 per year for 3 years)

- 400 participants from across the City
- Each family received a Reading is Better Together Book Bag with literacy activities
- This year's theme: Make Mealtime Family Learn Time
- 100 families received a copy of the cookbook *Cooking Step-by-Step*
- Family cooking demos (6 sessions) with Growing Chefs!. Families learned cooking skills and made a healthy snack
- Full day of free, family programs that support literacy and included many community organizations. Free pizza at lunch.


1:55
Gazpacho

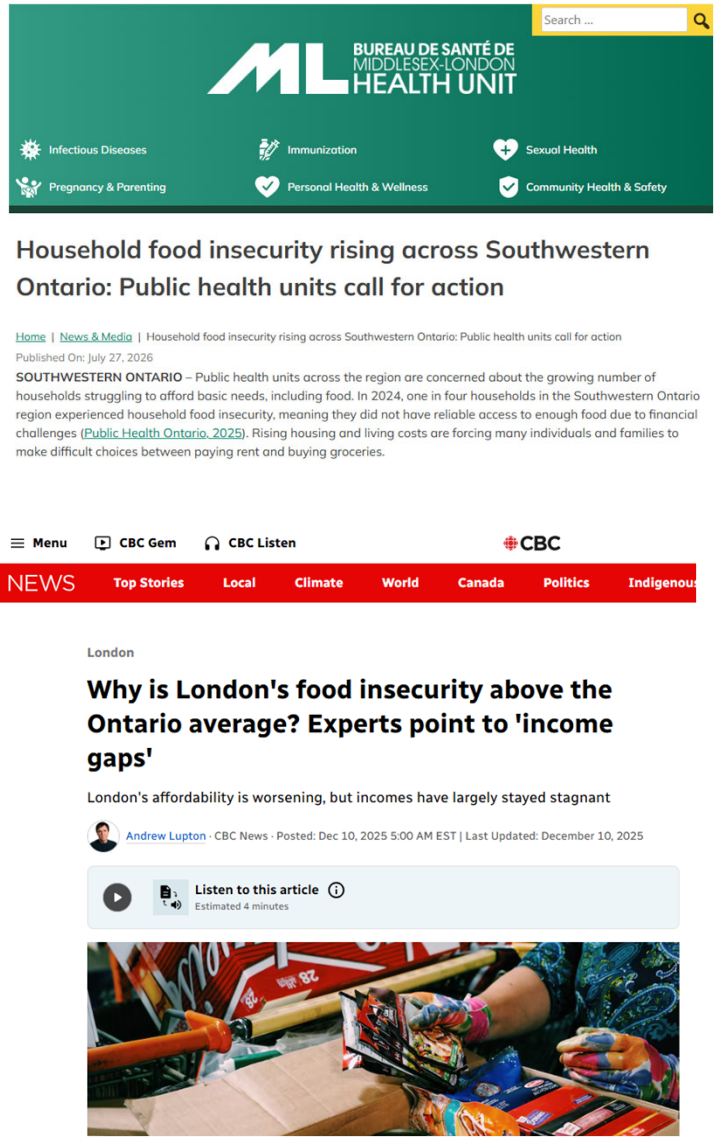

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Cooking
step-by-step
More than 50 delicious recipes for young cooks
SUPERBAD
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Household food insecurity rising across Southwestern Ontario: Public health units call for action

Home | News & Media | Household food insecurity rising across Southwestern Ontario: Public health units call for action

Published On: July 27, 2026

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO – Public health units across the region are concerned about the growing number of households struggling to afford basic needs, including food. In 2024, one in four households in the Southwestern Ontario region experienced household food insecurity, meaning they did not have reliable access to enough food due to financial challenges (Public Health Ontario, 2025). Rising housing and living costs are forcing many individuals and families to make difficult choices between paying rent and buying groceries.

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London

Why is London's food insecurity above the Ontario average? Experts point to 'income gaps'

London's affordability is worsening, but incomes have largely stayed stagnant

Andrew Lupton · CBC News · Posted: Dec 10, 2025 5:00 AM EST | Last Updated: December 10, 2025

Listen to this article
Estimated 4 minutes

Healthy Snacks Program

$10,000 in support in 2026

- Offered at Beacock, Sherwood, East London, Crouch, Pond Mills, Jalna, Landon
- The program primarily supports children and youth experiencing food insecurity or other challenging circumstances.
- **Staff report need is growing, including from seniors in their community.**
- Your support allows branches to respond to hunger in a simple, welcoming and judgment-free way.
- Staff also help those in need find resources in their neighbourhood and across the City (food banks, community meals, etc.)
- Branches offer a combination of shelf-stable and fresh options, including granola bars, crackers, yogurt drinks, cheese sticks, apples and clementines.
- Staff purchase fresh foods and take advantage of local sale prices, helping program funds go further while providing a greater variety of nutritious options.





Jazz for the People

$6,500 in support in 2026

- Continues to be one of our most popular program series
- Supports London's City of Music designation
- Costs shared with London Musicians' Association
- Attendance has ranged from 150-224 per concert. February's concert with Ian Mackay and the Sweet Lady Band saw the greatest attendance.

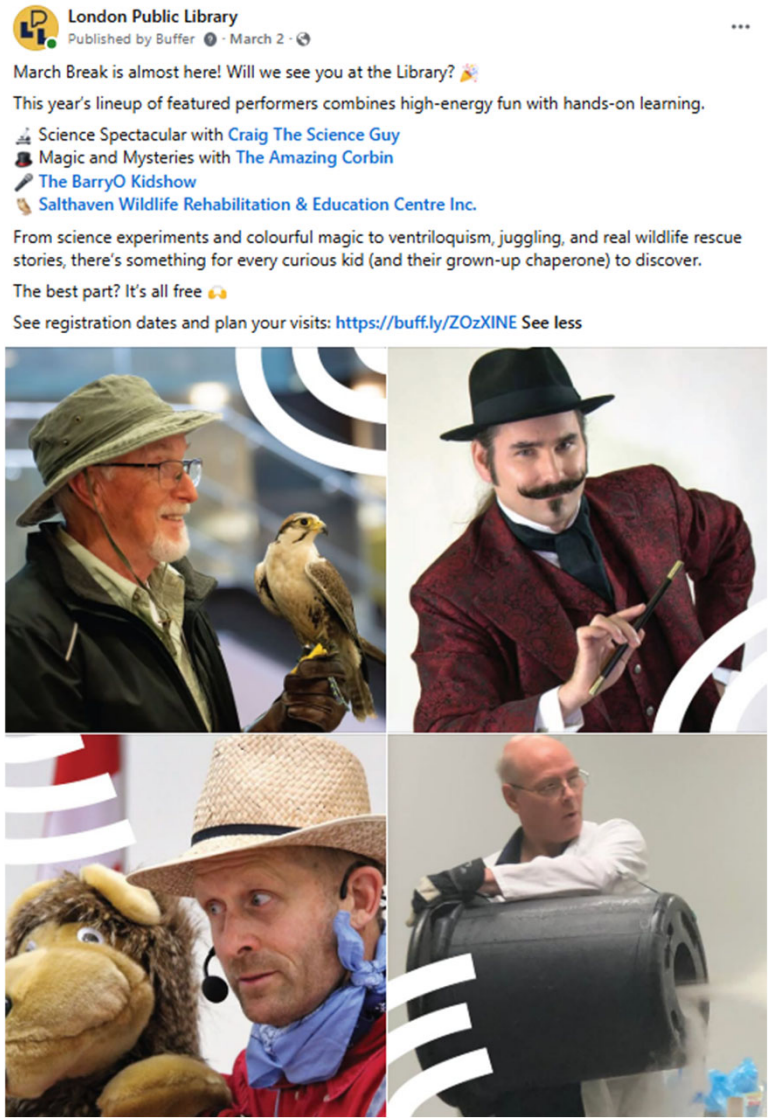
Children's Programming

Summer programming is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the London Public Library and Pearl Seferian.



$3,500 in support of Summer Programs 2026

- **30% increase in attendance at summer programs**
- 20% increase in TD SRC participants and 65% increase in TD SRC participation (visits)
- 62% of TD SRC participants were new this year
- 247 class visits in June to promote summer



Children's Programming

$3,000 in support of March Break programs 2026

- We were able to offer 17 free family programs with Special Guests, including a magic show, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, Salthaven and other popular children's
- Average attendance at these programs was 51, but some locations had 80+
- There are very few free programs for London families during March Break.





Sherwood Branch Renovation: Children's Area

$100,000 in support in 2025

2026 Impact:

- **44% increase in attendance**
- 217,580 visitors from Sept 2025 – Aug 2026
- 1,695 new Library cards created
- 11,050 people have attended programs, with most programs full to overflowing
- Children's area is always busy with intergenerational play and exploration across cultures



Sherwood’s Success: Inspiring Further Support



Thank You