

Staff Activity and Community Impact Report

March 2025

Events, Programs, and Services of Note

Dungeons and Dragons (D&D)

The adult D&D campaign at the Central Library was completed on February 25 after a very successful 10-week run. Due to its growing popularity, a second adult session will be added in April for the Central Library as well as the Cherryhill Branch and the following branch locations will host a teen session: Masonville, Beacock, Bostwick and Landon.

Writer in Residence

Library Writer in Residence, Saeed Teebi, has been holding office hours on Mondays at Central, and they have been well-attended. Saeed will be with us until the end of March.

Nshwaasnangong Relationship

Staff have been attending a playgroup once a month to perform a story time and promote the Library. Staff have also been attending their monthly community meal. At the last community meal, staff discussed the Library and showcased some of our technology with over 35 people.

Aboriginal Babies Book Bags (ABBC)

Volunteers packed up 450 ABBCs to be delivered to local organizations for distribution to young families in our community. The Bags contain 3 board books, literacy tips, songs, rhymes and local service brochures with the goal of providing culturally-based Indigenous child and family services and resources. This initiative originated in 2015 in partnership with Aboriginal Babies and Beyond, the City of London, Child and Youth Network, Nshwaasnangong Child Care & Family Centre, and N'Amerind Friendship Centre, Oneida.

Reading is Better Together Workshops

The first two Reading is Better Together workshops for parents and children were held on Saturday, February 8 at the Central Library. This initial round of workshops was open to families who were not successfully matched in the current READ Program. The workshops were created by Library Literacy Facilitators to help families work with their children to build both a love of reading and skills at home.

The 90-minute workshops shared how children learn to read, why it is so difficult to master, and guided parents with their children through hands on activities. Participants learned how to develop several decoding skills using manipulatives that were included, along with other resources, in a take-home bag.

Central's Children's Digital Literacy

The Digital Literacy Facilitator has been offering three weekly core programs:

- Monday: Early Engineers, aimed at children 4 years and older that focus on building challenges.
- Tuesday: Dabble Tech Lab where children use Snap Circuits, 3D printing, Osmos and Sphero Indi Robot Car etc.
- Wednesdays: Steam Lab where participants experiment with Baking Soda Chemical Reactions, Magnetic Slime and Magnetism, Rotational Force experiments, etc.

March Break Comic Book Jam

On Wednesday, March 12, 281 participants enjoyed this event in the Central Children's Library. New to the event this year was a photo booth run by Pic Me Up, a local London based business that let kids and families pose with props. Each child/family received a free strip of 3 photos. Comic Book Jam would not be as successful if not for the partnership with Heroes Comics who provides participants with free comics.

From the Community

Menstrual Equity Initiative

Staff received positive feedback about the free availability of period products in the Central library washrooms from a patron attending Board Game Night and expressed interested in donating money or products to support this initiative.

Joan's Place

Staff from Programming and Outreach and the Central Children's Library toured the newly opened Joan's Place, where they connected with staff from Youth Opportunities about programming and partnership opportunities.

In the Media

- [GALLERY: LFP's top photos from February 2025](#)
- [Ontario librarians say 'they have to be ready' amid growing calls in U.S. to ban books](#)
- [Mayor joins London Public Library board – over its chair's objections](#)
- [London's mayor will sit on the library board. Small problem: its members don't want him](#)
- [Chair of Library Board has concerns - but council appoints Mayor Morgan anyways](#)
- [Diving Into Urban Nature: Uncover London's Wildlife.](#)

Upcoming Programs and Events of Interest

March 24 2025 – Local Authors Showcase: Celebrate Creative Writing at the Central Library

Join us for an event showcasing the work of talented local writers. Hosted by the Library and Western University's current Writer-in-Residence, Saeed Teebi, and Western University's Student Writer-in-Residence, Jules Lee, this event will provide an opportunity to hear new work by London-area authors. Sponsored by The Department of English and Writing Studies at Western University, the Library, and Antler River Poetry.

April 2, 2025 - Emma Donoghue and “The Paris Express” at the Wolf

Join our hometown author Emma Donoghue for an evening discussion of her newest book "The Paris Express", a taut and suspenseful locked-room historical mystery. This event will be moderated by Vanessa Brown. Book sale and signing to follow.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten (1000BBK)

1000BBK will have a refresh come April! The program will switch from being purely virtual to an in-person format. Patrons will track their books on a reading log, and return each sheet to the library for a sticker and their next tracking sheet. We're hoping to increase engagement with our young readers and families.