

Staff Activity and Community Impact Report

April 24, 2025

Events, Programs, and Services of Note

Banff Mountain Festival World Tour

Wolf Performance Hall hosted the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour March 18 through 20. Attendance was the highest in 3 years, with 833 patrons enjoying films over the three days. Plans are in motion to bring back the festival for another three days in 2026.

Creative Age Continues

Creative Age online art workshops were held on Zoom every Tuesday in March in partnership with London artist Kathy Smith. Kits were created and picked up from the attendees' local branch for a hands-on experience and to practice their newly learned skills. Workshops featured, watercolour painting, slow stitching, collage. For the last session, an artist talk and folk art demonstration was held featuring local artist Audrey Cooper.

The Creative Age programming is funded by the New Horizons federal grant program.

Emma Donoghue: The Paris Express

On April 2, Emma Donoghue joined us at the Wolf to talk about her new book, *The Paris Express*. An audience of 167 attendees braved the freezing rain to hear about the book, ask insightful questions, and gather for a signing after the event.

Meet the Artist

On March 22nd, Award-winning artist Chris Allaway gave a talk about her use of fabric to create realistic landscapes that look like paintings. Her art exhibit on 3rd floor of Central Library from March 3 – April 18 continues to draw visitors.

READ Celebration

The READ Celebration was held on Saturday, March 22 at the Central Library in the Commons area. The space was filled with families and volunteers as each child participating in the program was recognized and honoured with words of praise from their volunteer partner.

The Library's READ Program (Reading Enjoyment and Development) has been helping struggling and reluctant readers since 1977. It's free, and each child meets with their own volunteer partner in a Library setting. Each child is treated as an individual, and our goal is to find reading material that build on their interests and strengths.

The READ Program is partially funded by generous donations to the Library.

Fund Development Update

Rudy Sparkuhl Gift Announcement

On March 26, 2025 Library staff, Board Members and community celebrated a gift of \$500,000, donated by Rudy Sparkuhl, a gifted artist and lover of the London Public Library. The announcement was held at Sherwood Branch with a friend of the donor in attendance. The donation will help create a welcoming commons space as part of the Sherwood Branch renovation. Rudy's art will also be permanently displayed at Sherwood.

More about Rudy Sparkuhl can be found on [the Library's website](#).

Library Giving Day

April 1, 2025 was Library Giving Day. In the weeks leading up to the online promotion, branches created interactive displays encouraging patrons to share why the Library is important to them. The community's engagement and donor response made Library Giving Day a success, with over \$20,000.00 being donated to support the Library's vital programs and resources

Visit the Library's website to learn more about [Library Giving Day](#).

In the Media

[Tech Know series on CBC London](#)

Rudy Sparkuhl Gift Announcement in the news:

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-80-afternoon-drive/clip/16136393-late-london-artist-donates-half-million-dollars-public>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/london/article/artists-estate-makes-transformative-gift-to-the-london-public-library/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/local-artist-s-estate-gifts-500k-to-revitalize-sherwood-public-library-1.7494359>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/london/article/on-the-bright-side-with-julie-atchison-23/>

Upcoming Programs and Events of Interest

Earthfest at the Central Library

The Library will host Earthfest on April 26 from 11 am to 4 pm. Events will be held on the first floor and in Citi Plaza.

Volunteer Celebration

The Library's Annual Volunteer Celebration in recognition of National Volunteer Week 2025 is taking place on Monday, April 28th. This year's theme, "Volunteers Make

Waves,” highlights the meaningful and lasting impact of volunteer efforts across the country—and within our own Library. It’s a time to recognize and thank the incredible individuals who give their time and energy to support our programs and services.

Join the Club! at the Central Library

On May 24th from 10am-1pm, groups from across London will be on hand with information about their activities and membership. This program allows patrons to connect with their community.

Stratford Festival Series at the Central Library

The Library will be offering this program every Thursdays starting May 1 until May 22nd, in partnership with the Stratford Festival. The sessions will cover topics such as comedy, devised theatre, stage combat and song and dance.

The Human Rights with Tell it to Sweeney at the Wolf

On April 24, Wolf will be bringing in *The Human Rights* with local ensemble *Tell it to Sweeney*. *The Human Rights* are an eight-piece reggae band, including a couple of former members of *Big Sugar*.

Royal Wood at the Wolf

On April 27, acclaimed Canadian songwriter and musician Royal Wood will be gracing the stage. Royal Wood's previous appearance in London was opening for Bonnie Raitt, so we are excited to feature this talent in the Wolf Performance Hall.