

Staff Activity and Community Impact Report

January 22, 2026

Events, Programs, and Services of Note

2025 James Reaney Memorial Lecture

On November 29, the Central Library hosted the 2025 James Reaney Memorial Lecture in partnership with the Words Festival. The topic for this year was, “Colleen Thibaudeau’s Big Sea Vision”, and featured photos, readings and a presentation about local poet Colleen Thibaudeau. There were 80 virtual and in-person attendees from across Canada.

Babies Book Bags

Babies Book Bag distribution increased 15% in 2025. The bags are designed for new or expectant parents, containing practical, hands-on tools, board books, and information to use as soon as the baby is born. They are distributed through Family Centres, MLHU infant programming, Life Spin, and all Library branches. The Baby’s Book Bag program is made possible through London’s Child and Youth Network Literacy Team and the Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London.

Retro Rewind: Classic Arcade Program at the Beacock Branch

Retro Rewind: Classic Arcade is a new program at Beacock that offers a family-friendly, drop-in opportunity to experience classic arcade games. This multigenerational program provides a direct connection to gaming history, inviting patrons to experience the classics as they were meant to be played.

Sega Genesis Sport Gaming Tournament

The inaugural *Sega Genesis Sport Gaming Tournament* at Storm Stayed Brewing was a success, drawing a full bracket of gaming contenders, including many less frequent users of library services. Players participated in exciting matches on classic Sega Genesis consoles. There spirited competition over titles like *NHL 94*. We anticipate even greater participation and excitement for the next tournament scheduled in February.

Speaking with Friends: An Afternoon with Linden MacIntyre

On December 6, Library staff partnered with the Friends of the Library to host, “Speaking with Friends: An Afternoon with Linden MacIntyre”. 120 keen attendees were invited to engage with the novelist and journalist about his newest book, *An Accidental Villain: A Soldier’s Tale of War, Deceit and Exile*.

LPL News

Dec. 4, 2025 – Fifteen Years Giving Back; <https://www.lpl.ca/news/fifteen-years-giving-back>

Dec. 17, 2026 - A New Voice in Residence; <https://www.lpl.ca/news/new-voice-residence>

Dec. 19, 2025 - Hottest Reads of 2025!; <https://www.lpl.ca/news/hottest-reads-2025>

Jan. 2, 2026 - Connecting Community Through Volunteering;
<https://www.lpl.ca/news/connecting-community-through-volunteering>

Jan. 5, 2025 - Celebrating Family Literacy Day; <https://www.lpl.ca/news/celebrating-family-literacy-day>

In The Media

Dec. 4, 2025 – The Library It List; <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-158-london-morning/clip/16185670-the-library-it-list>

Dec. 21, 2025 - Fanshawe student interview with M. Ciccone, CEO:
<https://www.1069thex.com/2025/12/21/every-door-open-a-peek-inside-the-public-library/>
<https://www.1069thex.com/2025/12/21/libraries-offer-vital-community-space-and-support-for-canadians/>

Jan. 8, 2026 – The Library It List; <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-158-london-morning/clip/16190897-the-library-it-list-january-2026>

Upcoming Events and Programs

Family Literacy Day, Central Library
January 24, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Nature in the City, Wolf Performance Hall
Tuesdays, January 27 – March 3, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm