

Growing Chefs! Ontario

2025-2026

Fall Impact Report - Garden Programs



WESTERN FAIR
district



GROWING  CHEFS!

Partners in Food & Agricultural Education



Winter Festival: January 16 - February 8th, 2026

Thank you to all of our sponsors!

Londonlicious is a, community-focused, bi-annual food festival in London that not only highlights the city's diverse restaurants but also emphasizes supporting local farmers, growers, and producers.

All sponsors of the bi-annual festival also support our children's education projects.

The Londonlicious Festival supports us in realizing our vision of a healthy community that is engaged with our food system!



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For more information on the new
Londonlicious Festival visit www.londonlicious.ca



Notes from the Field!

Our Learn to Grow; Grow to Give initiative blends food literacy and food security by growing fresh, healthy foods for families while providing equitable, accessible food education. **This summer we launched Phase 2 and broke ground on our new urban farm!** This expansion is already helping us grow more food boxes and cultivate additional learning and volunteer opportunities.

Phase 2 Progress

- Our first acre is underway, with a mixture of active growing space, cover cropping and tarping to prepare the soil for spring planting!
- Our team of staff and volunteers transformed what was just empty grass into a thriving urban farm with all the amenities: a shed, fencing, seating, shade sails, a washing station and water access. A huge accomplishment for our small but mighty team!
- A dedicated garden van now helps us harvest and deliver the fruits of our labour.
- Production has expanded from serving White Oaks Public School to also serving Lord Elgin Public School, with two additional schools planned for the new year.
- Spring field trips are being planned so students can dig into hands-on learning.

Partnerships and Community Impact

We could not have done this project without WSIB, who generously shared their land with us, and the ongoing support and guidance of the London Food Bank. Neighbourhood Resource Centres, OSNP volunteers and School Support Counsellors assist with distribution and gather anonymous feedback from families, ensuring what we grow is culturally-relevant, wanted and community-informed.

While growing this new phase, our other garden spaces have continued to flourish. We've run programs, attended community events and explored food systems with partners like the London Public Library, Storybook Gardens, Childreach, Western Fair Association, Kiwanis, Investing in Children and many more.

Check out some of the amazing photos from our urban farm and garden spaces - and thank you for helping us reap the rewards of a season well-planted!

- Christy Cook, Education Programs Manager





Welcome to
our urban
farm!





Many hands
make light
work!



Learn to Grow; Grow to Give Testimonial



“Through the Growing Chefs fresh food program, Lord Elgin Public School has been able to strengthen relationships between families and the school community.

The program provides fresh, nutritious vegetables that help ease financial pressures around food access. It also offers a safe, welcoming place families can gather near their home.

Lord Elgin is very thankful for the support this year and being able to give back to our families!”

- Stephanie Skrypnyk, School Support Counsellor, Lord Elgin Public School



Heaping harvests!





Fun in
the sun!



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