

# Growing Chefs! Ontario

2025-2026

Spring Impact Report - Public Programs



Partners in Food & Agricultural Education



**Summer Festival: July 24th - August 16th, 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](http://www.londonlicious.ca)



# Notes from the Learning Kitchen!

This winter, we launched a new series of **Family Cooking Classes**, creating opportunities for children and adults to cook, bake, and learn side by side. Designed for pairs, one adult and one child aged 8+, these hands-on sessions focus on building confidence in the kitchen while creating meaningful shared experiences through food!

Over the past year, we have seen increasing requests from both the public and community organizations for more intergenerational cooking opportunities. Families are looking for ways to spend quality time together, and cooking continues to offer a natural space for connection, communication, creativity, and collaboration.

So far, families have joined us to explore a range of sweet recipes - from festive cookies and seasonal muffins to baked doughnuts, quick breads, and classic pie-making - with our upcoming Spring Garden Tea Party already generating excitement!

## **These experiences have supported families to:**

- Build confidence in the kitchen together
- Strengthen communication and collaboration between generations
- Encourage curiosity and experimentation with new ingredients
- Create space for shared learning and connection

One participant shared with us that our first class was: "Very well organized, everyone got to do something they enjoyed. I had a magical evening with my daughter."

Alongside these new family classes, we also continued to offer our Monthly Kids' Cooking Classes, Teen Cooking Classes, and 8-week culinary programs: Beginner, Children's, and Advanced. These programs continue to fill quickly, and we plan to offer additional sessions next year to help meet growing demand.

Keep reading for more highlights from a season of hands-on learning, shared experiences, lasting memories, and growing confidence in the kitchen!

- **Christy Cook, Education Programs Manager**



# Program Spotlight: Holiday Baking Class



Our first Holiday Baking - Family Cooking Class brought families together to celebrate the season! While the delicious smell of cookies baking in the oven filled the room, participants enjoyed warm hot cocoa and decorated their cookie boxes. Once the baking was complete, cookies were decorated and placed into their finished boxes to take home and share with family and friends. **The experience was full of holiday spirit, laughter, and collaboration from start to finish!**

## On the menu:

- Cardamom sugar cookies
- Gingerbread cookies
- Chocolate crinkle cookies
- Shortbread bites
- Cranberry orange white chocolate bars



# Making Memories





# Testimonials

“A clean bright space for children to learn about seasonal food and how to prepare it - all with an engaging, enthusiastic atmosphere. My daughter comes home after each class ready to help with meals and curiosity about ingredients.”

- **Laura N**

“My child was exposed to dishes and types of food that he hasn't been exposed to in the past. I can also see a noticeable difference in his confidence when cooking/baking. He was so proud of himself that he could help serve a meal to his dad at the end.”

- **Nicole M**

“My son loved the creativity of the menu for the class. He enjoyed the hands on chance to cut and prepare alongside other kids. Getting to eat all the yummy food after and take home some extra goodies was definitely a highlight. As a parent I love fostering new skills for my son! We get excited every month to sign up!”

- **Amrita A**



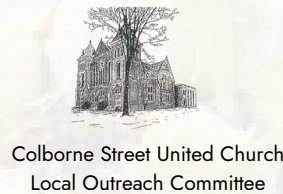
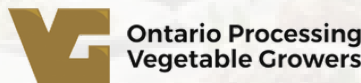
Celebrating  
with Family



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