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CHILDREN'S BLOCK PARTY BONANZA!



Jamie Hughes, who was on the TV program Lego Masters US with his daughter, Maia, poses with Santa behind a day-long community build featuring contributions of creations made by children and youth guests at the annual Lansdowne-Rotary Club of Brantford children's holiday party.

It was a Block Party bonanza at Lansdowne Children's Centre as the annual children's party celebration was centred on the theme of popular brick-based toys like Lego and Minecraft.

Presented in partnership with Rotary Club of Brantford, on Dec. 7 at Lansdowne's Brantford site, with an extension of festivities offered Dec. 11 at the Simcoe site, hundreds of client families enjoyed

games, and interactive activities, and the opportunity to visit with holiday friends that, included Bluey, the Grinch and of course, Santa Claus.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT



BRANTFORD POLICE SERVICE LAUNCHES PROJECT: BRIGHT FUTURE TO SUPPORT LANSDOWNE

Brantford Police Service (BPS) has introduced Project: Bright Future, a community-focused initiative that turns routine police interactions into opportunities to give back.

Throughout the campaign, which runs through the end of the year, officers will issue positive tickets, not for infractions, but as a gesture of appreciation and encouragement for residents to support Lansdowne Children's Centre, through greater awareness of the work the agency does, and financial support.

Lansdowne provides vital resources, services and support programs for babies, kids and teens with physical,

communication, and/ or developmental needs throughout Brantford and Brant County, and the rest of Grand Erie (Haldimand, Norfolk, Six Nations of the Grand River, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.)

Each 'ticket' BPS officers give out will include information on how to donate to Lansdowne; all donations are 100% voluntary.

"At Lansdowne Children's Centre, we see every day how community support transforms lives. Incredible generosity powers programs and services that help our most vulnerable children feel included, supported, and valued.

"Our journey to a new building is essential to expanding our ability to ensure all kids thrive. Every

donation is more than a gift – it's an investment in a child's ability to participate fully in our community and experience the joy of realizing their potential," said Lansdowne Executive Director Rita-Marie Hadley.

BPS Chief Jason Saunders noted, "This initiative is about more than traffic stops. It's about connection, compassion, and investing in the next generation. We want to thank residents for being responsible and caring members of our community and invite them to join us in building a brighter future for local children."

[CLICK HERE](#) for the official announcement on Brantford Police Service website

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

BUILDING CONNECTIONS TOGETHER



BRANTFORD CITY COUNCILLORS GIVE \$2M BOOST TO LANSDOWNE CHILDREN'S CENTRE'S NEW HOME

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full story, featured 2025 Dec. 01 in the [Brantford Expositor](#)

Lansdowne Children's Centre is absolutely thrilled with the early holiday gift it received on December 1, when Brantford city councillors voted to give \$2 million towards the agency's new purpose-built children's treatment centre.

As reported by local journalist Vincent Ball in the Brantford Expositor, the contribution will

be made over the course of five years to support the construction of the agency's new centre.

Michael Parsa, Ontario's Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, accompanied by Brantford Brant MPP Will Bouma, had come to Lansdowne in January 2024 to announce that the agency had received provincial approval for a new home.

On August 8, 2025, the location of the new site was unveiled: 168 Colborne Street, adjacent to the

current 39 Mount Pleasant Street location.

In his article, Ball quoted Scott Lyons, chair of the project's capital fund-raising campaign, saying, "This project has a lot of momentum and we want to keep that momentum going."

Ball also reported that Lyons said Lansdowne's fundraising campaign aims to raise about \$12 million to support construction of the new facility.

BLOCK PARTY: BRANTFORD

Continued from page 1

At the Brantford site, guests also had a chance to build their own brick creations and add them to a collaborative display started by Jamie Hughes, who was on the fifth season of Lego Masters US with his daughter, Maia – the first father/daughter duo in Lego Masters history.

They also made history along with the team of Anne and Luke, when together they created the tallest Lego build in the shortest period of time in Lego Masters US history. Jamie and Maia finished off in sixth place in the competition, and they continue to share their love of creative building with others.

Reflecting on his experience coming to Lansdowne's Block Party, Jamie said,

"I was so impressed with the work the kids put in and the attention to detail and storytelling. To see the smiles on their faces and the general excitement of building shows the enduring legacy of Lego. I was very happy to be a part of this great event."

This event would not be possible without the support of the Rotary Club of Brantford, which not only supplied financial support for the event, but a number of members also came out to volunteer in various capacities for the Block Party in Brantford.

Said event organizer Joshua Paxton, **"We are so grateful for the continued support of the Rotary Club of Brantford and all its members. Their care and compassion for community families is truly inspiring."**

Lansdowne wishes everyone the happiest of holiday seasons, and all the best in 2026!



**More Photos
[CLICK HERE](#)**

BLOCK PARTY: BRANTFORD



BLOCK PARTY: SIMCOE



1 IN 10 CHILDREN NEED HELP FINDING THEIR VOICE

In many Ontario households, the simple joy of a toddler's first words can carry profound meaning. Yet for families like Erin's in Haldimand, that anticipation often comes with worry.

"If you have a question about your child's development, don't be afraid to say something,"
Empty heading

Erin urged, reflecting on her daughter's journey through speech and language delays – and the transformative impact of early intervention.

Ontario parents have watched post-COVID trends with alarm: speech delay diagnoses among toddlers surged during the pandemic and remain stubbornly high: 16–17% by age two in 2023–24. Erin admits she is no expert in child development, but seeing her daughter interact with other kids the same age was enough to help her identify a concern. "She didn't seem to be in the same place as her peers in terms of the number of words in her vocabulary, or the clarity of her speech."

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services estimates that one in ten children require speech-language help before starting school. Yet many parents struggle to know when to act. Expert guidelines emphasize milestones: babbling by nine months, first words by 12 months, and two-word combinations by age two. Lansdowne Children's Centre provides an interactive



speech development checklist on its website to help families monitor progress.

Once Erin's daughter entered Lansdowne's care pathway, the difference was clear. Initial assessment with Speech-Language Pathologist Sarah Graham led to a focused therapy block with Communicative Disorders Assistant Leslie Thompson.

"It was like night and day," Erin said.

"(Leslie) was really giving me a lot of pointers on how to make corrections or how to just help (my daughter) along in her journey," Erin said, adding that her family also received resources, like flash cards, to better reinforce the lessons.

With each session, her daughter's confidence blossomed – and so did Erin's. "My experience there, my daughter's experience there, really gave us peace of mind that she had grown and also gave me the teaching abilities to help her."

Erin's message to other parents is consistent: "If you have a question about your child's development, don't be afraid to say something." Lansdowne urges families to act early.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more of this story,
as featured in December in the Hamilton Spectator.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR YOUR HOLIDAY AND YEAR-END GIVING

If you are considering a holiday or year-end gift in support of families in their Journey with Lansdowne, please find below a list of options and timing for your consideration. Thousands of families are currently walking the same path, facing challenges that feel insurmountable. Your support ensures that kids and caregivers can continue to access life-changing programs and services at Lansdowne Children's Centre.



Gifts by Cheque

Please make cheques payable to Lansdowne Children's Centre. Mail must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2025 to be eligible for a 2025 tax receipt.

Mailing address:

Attention: Development Office
Lansdowne Children's Centre
39 Mount Pleasant Street
Brantford, ON N3T 1S7

Also, there's a drop box outside our Brantford office near the staff entrance, under our logo.

Gifts of Securities

We welcome gifts of securities at any time throughout the year. For more information, please contact Lynda Henriksen, Director of Development and Community Relations at lhensien@lansdownecc.com



Safe Online Giving

Make your gift by credit card online by 11:59 p.m. on December 31, to receive a 2025 tax receipt.

***Please note that all of our sites will be closed starting December 25 and reopening on January 2, 2026.*

Thank you for your generosity and consideration at this time.

Every gift makes a difference!

Happy Holidays to you and yours, with peace, joy and good cheer.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

CHANCE & FRIENDS FROM PETSMART RETURN TO LANSDOWNNE FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

We are so grateful to our friends at PetSmart in Brantford and Woodstock, who have once again provided us with toys to share with our clients!

The toys are purchased in support of PetSmart Charities, with a mission of finding loving homes for pets in need and keeping pets together with the families who love them.

This year's group of fuzzy, fun friends includes Chance the Dog, Cheer the Penguin, Journey the Bear, Lucky the Cat, Fortune the Reindeer and Wonder the Owl. Lansdowne is shared the fantastic plush friends at the annual children's party events and through client interactions with Lansdowne service providers.



Chance the Dog was surprised to learn that anyone can call the SmartStart Hub at Lansdowne Children's Centre to connect with services and supports regarding concerns about their baby, child or teen's communication, developmental and/ or physical development. No diagnosis or doctor referral is required, and there is no cost.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



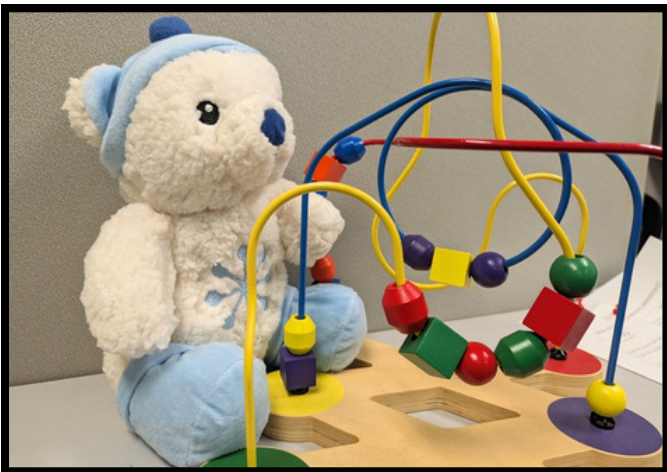
Fortune the Reindeer thinks it's so cool that Lansdowne Children's Centre has Occupational Therapists, who help clients with their fine motor skills, and Physiotherapists, who help clients with their gross motor skills.



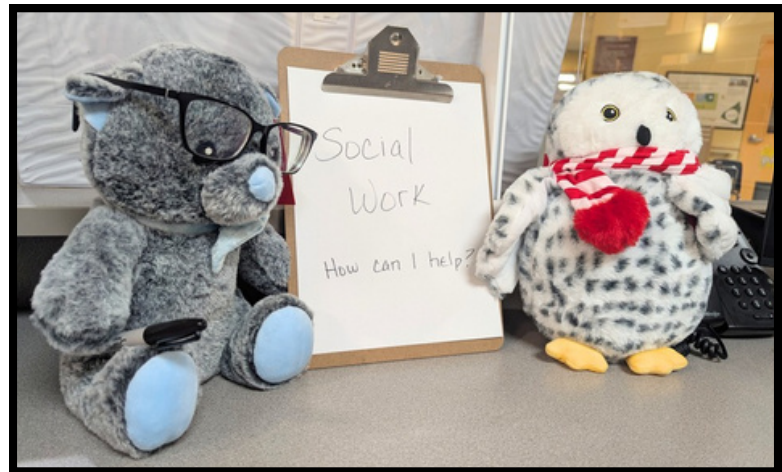
Wonder the Owl knows who at Lansdowne Children's Centre helps babies and kids develop their communication skills, like speech sound production, understanding and producing language and using language to interact with others: the Speech and Language Therapists.



Cheer the Penguin likes Autism Services' Entry to School program at Lansdowne Children's Centre. This is where kids who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and will be going to school soon can practice what that's like ahead of time, so it's more familiar when they get there.



Journey the Bear appreciates how the Early Intervention Program (EIP) and Infant and Child Development Program (ICDP) help enable infants and kids increase their participation in all aspects of community life, optimize their ability to achieve developmental milestones, and experience their fullest potential.



Lucky the Cat wants everyone to know that the Lifespan Support Services at Lansdowne Children's Centre – like the Family Service Coordinators, Child and Youth Workers and Social Workers – offer kids and teens and their families access to support services to help with navigation of challenging transitions, emotions, conflicts and scheduling.

ANNEMARIE KRAUSS RETIRING AFTER 35 YEARS

Annemarie Krauss might not have followed a career path on the family farm, but her life's work was all about seeing growth nonetheless.

After 35 years of working at Lansdowne Children's Centre – most recently in the role of Program Supervisor for Respite Services – Annemarie is taking a well-deserved retirement.

Her start in the child development field actually does have its roots in her agricultural background.

While in high school, Annemarie was a member of the Junior Farmers group.



"At Christmastime, we actually did sleigh rides," she said. One of the groups they took out were residents at an institution for adults with developmental delays.

"I really enjoyed that outing that we had done, and I thought I'd really like to get into that field," she said.

After college, Annemarie worked in some group homes for adults, but "I really wanted to work with kids," so she got a job at Lansdowne Children's Centre as a therapy assistant. At the time, her role included speech and language, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Mentoring from others, ongoing training and the ability to move to different positions within the agency meant Annemarie was always learning, always growing professionally. Other roles Annemarie held at Lansdowne included service coordination and developmental consultant for infant development.

Through it all, it was the people who made the difference.

With her coworkers, Annemarie had a second family.

"The friendships that you develop with people over the years at a place like Lansdowne, they're lifelong. I've worked with so many fantastic people over the years," she said.

With her client families, the main thing was getting to know them and what supports they needed that she could provide.

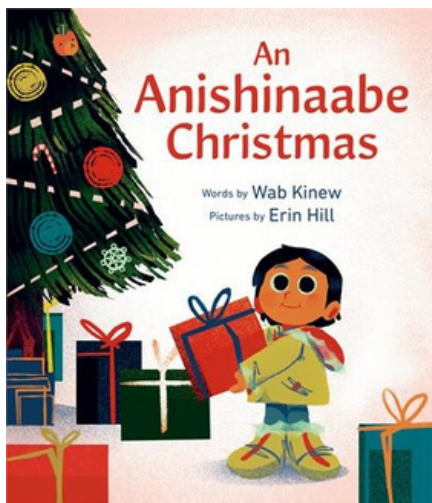
"We're here to support the family the best we can. It's important to remember, it's not our agenda or our goals; it's where the family needs us to be."

Knowing you've been able to make an effective change in the lives of your clients is deeply rewarding.

"It's not about the numbers and all that; it's about the people and the kids – and every single child I work with is so beautiful."

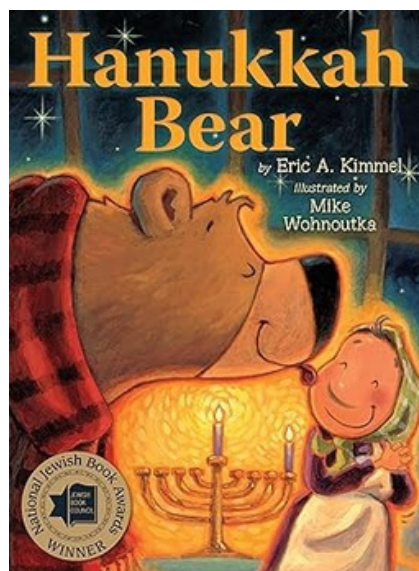
[CLICK HERE](#) to read more of Annemarie's story.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



An Anishinaabe Christmas, Written by Wab Kinew, Illustrated by Erin Hill
One winter solstice, Mommy tells Baby that they're going to the Rez to have an Anishinaabe Christmas. But what does that mean? And will Santa know where to find them?

*Alison,
GoodMinds.com in
Brantford*



Hanukkah Bear, Written by Eric A. Kimmel, Illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka
On the first night of Hanukkah, the smell of Bubba Brayna's cooking wakes a hibernating bear. He comes to Bubba Brayna's house, and since she can't see or hear very well, she mistakes the bear for her rabbi, and welcomes him in!

*Tamara Botting,
communications
coordinator*



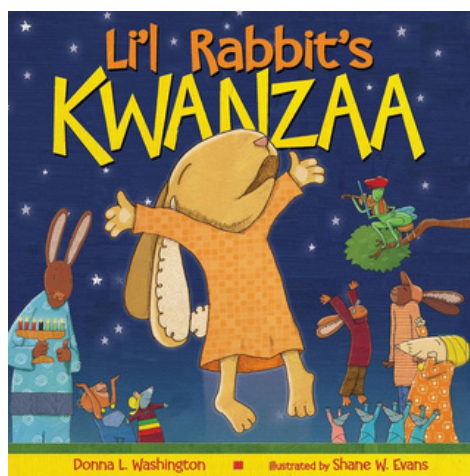
A Winter Celebration, Written by Wahwahbiginojii David Anderson, Illustrated by Julian Grafenauer and Rayhan Bhuyan

This story looks at what might have happened during the first winter celebration when an Anishinaabe family and a Christian family gathered together to celebrate – how two cultures and two traditions can come together in a way that is respectful, responsible and builds relationships.

Alison, GoodMinds.com in Brantford

Li'l Rabbit's Kwanzaa, Written by Donna L. Washington and Illustrated by Shane W. Evans
This story follows Li'l Rabbit as he searches for a special treat for his Granna Rabbit for Kwanzaa, and along the way, he learns the true meaning of the celebration: coming together to help others.

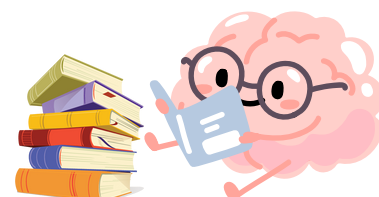
*Tamara Botting,
communications
coordinator*



[Click here to see more book recommendations](#)

Have a book recommendation you'd like to share? Send it to Tamara Botting in communications:

TBotting@lansdownecc.com





THE CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understand your child's emotional world by learning to read the emotional needs
- Support your child's ability to successfully manage emotions
- Enhance the development of your child's self esteem
- Trust your own ability and desire to help your child be secure

DATES:

- Tuesdays - 6:00 - 7:30 pm Starting January 20, 2026 (8 weeks) @ Child and Family Services of Grand Erie, 221 Henry St., Brantford * Child Minding may be available for this program
- Wednesdays- 6:00 - 7:30 pm Starting January 21, 2026 (8 weeks) @ Woodview, 106-241 Dunsdon St., Brantford
- Thursdays-9:30-11:00 am Starting January 22, 2026 (8 weeks) @ Woodview, 106-241 Dunsdon St., Brantford

At times, all parents feel lost or without a clue about what our child might need from us. Imagine what it might feel like if you were unable to make sense of what your child was really asking from you. The Circle of Security Parenting program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

REGISTER NOW

***CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER***

OR



Lansdowne Children's Centre Site Closures

2025

December 25: Christmas Day

December 26: Boxing Day

December 29 to 31: Annual closure of sites

2026

January 1: New Year's Day

February 16: Family Day

April 3: Good Friday

April 6: Easter Monday

May 18: Victoria Day

July 1: Canada Day

August 3: Civic Holiday

September 7: Labour Day

September 30: Truth and Reconciliation Day

October 12: Thanksgiving Day

December 25: Christmas Day

December 28: (Observance of) Boxing Day

December 29 to 31: Annual closure of sites

January 1: New Year's Day



Storytime in your language

Check out the latest addition to our Digital Storybook Collection!

LOTE4Kids is our new online database of digital books in World Languages, allowing kids to enjoy the magic of stories in LOTE (*Languages Other Than English*).

LOTE4Kids has over 2000+ digital picture books in 50+ languages, and every story comes with English translations.

Start reading today:
brantlibrary.ca/kids



County of Brant Public Library

Paris Branch, 12 William Street

Paris Ontario N3L 1K7

519-442-2433 | reference@brant.ca