

## **BGC London Rural Hubs: Municipal Report – Middlesex Centre**

### **Facility Usage:**

April:

- Gymnastics
- Jr. MAP
- Ilderton Youth Action Team
- PD Day Camp

May:

- Gymnastics
- Jr. MAP
- Ilderton Youth Action Team
- PD Day Camp

June:

- Summer Kick-Off Party
- Gymnastics
- Red Cross Babysitter Course

July:

- Summer Camp
- Flag Football
- BGC MasterChef

August:

- Summer Camp

September:

October:

- Mad Scientist Night
- Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Basketball
- Gymnastics
- PD Day Camp

November:

- MasterChef Cooking Challenge
- T-Shirt Making Art Night
- Escape Room Night
- Basketball
- Gymnastics
- PD Day Camp

December:

- Holiday Self Care Party
- DIY Christmas Presents
- Christmas Cookie Extravaganza
- Gymnastics
- Red Cross Stay Safe Course

January:

- Ilderton Young Artist Studio
- Gymnastics
- Volleyball
- Red Cross Babysitter Course
- PD Day Camp

February:

- The Ilderton Challenge Series
- Ilderton Gameshow Night
- Gymnastics

March:

- Kid Food Nation
- The Chill Challenge
- Fear Factor Night
- Slime Party
- Gymnastics
- March Break Camp

From April 2024 – March 2025 BGC London has served 746 children and youth overall in Ilderton.

BGC London Rural Hubs is committed to meeting the diverse needs of children and youth in Middlesex Centre by aligning our programs and services with the goals promoting supportive active living, lifelong learning, community engagement, economic development, and sustainability.

BGC London Rural Hubs provides diverse opportunities such as Red Cross courses (First Aid, Stay Safe, and Babysitting Certification), recreation and sport programming, creative arts, general interest, and STEM-focused activities. These programs are designed to ensure that youth in Middlesex Centre have access to meaningful, high-quality learning and recreation opportunities that promote social-emotional development, personal growth, and overall well-being.

The promotion of physical literacy and facilitator training is supported through BGC London's Next Level Sport Programming. This initiative removes barriers between rural youth and high-quality sport opportunities by connecting participants with skilled, experienced coaches who build their confidence, competence, and motivation—encouraging lifelong active living. Our accessible and inclusive programs, including basketball and gymnastics, contribute to the physical health of young people while promoting equitable participation across the community.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of our approach. BGC London Rural Hubs regularly seeks feedback through conversations with youth, parents, caregivers, and school partners to ensure our programs are reflective of the community's evolving needs and interests. This approach fosters a strong sense of ownership, belonging, and local identity within our participants and partners.

Sustainability remains a guiding principle in our programming model. At this stage, we are focused on understanding the interest and need for programming in Middlesex Centre. Programs are created and promoted based on historical participation and community feedback, while also observing current trends. These insights form the foundation for future program development and contribute to the longevity and sustainability of our services.

Through our diverse programming, collaborative spirit, and commitment to community values, BGC London Rural Hubs is proud to play an active role in fulfilling Middlesex Centre's vision for a vibrant, healthy, and engaged community.

### **Program Photos:**



### **The Future of Programming in Middlesex Centre:**

Following the successful delivery of a wide range of youth programs, we have gathered valuable feedback and data that are guiding the next phase of our work in Middlesex Centre. Our focus is now on strengthening, expanding, and sustaining programming that not only meets the growing and evolving needs of local children and youth, but also supports Middlesex Centre's community and economic development.

The next phase of programming will emphasize long-term community impact through skill-building, leadership development, collaborative partnerships, and sustainable planning. Our goal is to

ensure Rural Hubs continue to be spaces of growth, inclusion, and opportunity—where youth not only feel a sense of belonging but are equipped with the tools and experiences to thrive.

Launching in June, the “Skilled4Success” program will serve as a cornerstone of BGC London Rural Hubs’ sustainability and economic development strategy. This comprehensive employment readiness initiative is designed to equip youth ages 13–16 with in-demand skills through targeted workplace competency training, volunteer placements within BGC London Rural Hubs, and certifications.

“Skilled4Success” addresses both the employment needs of rural youth and the future staffing needs of BGC London by preparing participants for real-world opportunities. The program includes training in workplace communication, leadership, customer service, and program planning. Through mentorship and networking opportunities, participants will be connected with local employers—strengthening community ties and building a pipeline of prepared, motivated young workers.

Participants will also earn certifications in First Aid & CPR and other essential training to make them immediately employable in the childcare, recreation, and community sectors—areas vital to the local economy and BGC London’s own operational sustainability.

In short, “Skilled4Success” does more than prepare youth for jobs—it actively cultivates a sustainable rural ecosystem where youth thrive, local businesses benefit from a capable workforce, and community programming grows stronger through internal leadership and volunteerism.

To begin leadership development before the age of employment eligibility, we are also launching leadership opportunities for youth ages 12–15 through our summer youth camps. Our **Leadership Camp** will provide youth with foundational training in child and youth engagement, Red Cross Babysitting Certification, and the basics of team leadership.

In addition, we will offer Chef Nation Camp, a cooking and baking camp developed in response to demonstrated interest and strong participant engagement in previous programs, as well as our Creative Arts Camp which will engage youth to participate in a vast range of creative mediums facilitated by our experienced staff as well as guest artists and community members. These camps are in addition to our BGC London Ilderton Camp, which will be taking place this summer at the Ilderton Community Centre.

BGC London Rural Hubs is preparing to shift its strategic direction for the 2025–2026 school year, with a renewed focus on life skill development, youth leadership, and a sustainable programming model that supports long-term engagement and growth. The goal is to create a structured, intentional pathway that supports children and youth from their early years through to employment. This begins with programming that introduces younger children to core life skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and emotional regulation in a fun, supportive

environment. As participants age, they transition into youth programs designed to deepen these skills while also introducing leadership development and community engagement opportunities. By the time participants reach high school, they are given meaningful leadership roles such as mentoring younger members, assisting with program facilitation, and contributing to the planning and delivery of activities. These experiences not only strengthen their personal and professional skill sets but also foster a sense of responsibility and belonging through recreation and exciting programs and activities. The final phase of this cycle supports youth in transitioning into paid employment opportunities within BGC London, whether as program facilitators or camp staff, allowing them to give back to the very communities where they grew up. This approach not only promotes individual growth but also ensures the sustainability and continuity of rural programs by cultivating future leaders from within the community.

At this stage in our development, BGC London Rural Hubs is focused on laying a strong foundation for long-term success through building meaningful community engagement, establishing a dedicated and skilled staff team, and promoting awareness of our programs and vision for sustainability. Our priority remains delivering impactful programming and building strong local partnerships that will eventually allow for financial stability and sustainability. Continued community and municipal support during this foundational phase is critical to helping us realize our long-term vision.