



## **AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

**Meeting:** Regular Meeting of Council, Operations and Planning - 17 Apr 2024  
**To:** Members of Council  
**From:** Wendy Keating, CEO/Chief Librarian  
**Department:** Library/Culture  
**Subject:** Library/Cultural 1st Quarter 2024

### **Recommendation:**

That Council accept this report "Library/Cultural 1st Quarter 2024" as submitted by the CEO/Chief Librarian as information only.

### **Origin:**

January, February, March 2024

### **Background information:**

*If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales. - Albert Einstein*

Winter is over but here you will find what the library was up to this Winter!

**Adult Hangout!** - This is something a lot of libraries are taking on. Looking for a night out? What better way to spend your evening than hanging out at the library with other adults? Play games, socialize, drink coffee, it's entirely up to you! Our first hangout was in February.

**Wigwam Build and Birchbark Canoes** - The wonder of birchbark and cultural learning with our Algonquin friends. We built a wigwam in the library this winter. The public could watch Jimmy Green and friends put up a small wigwam. Chuck Commanda's canoe, (it was built right next door), was on display, too!

**Indoor Walking Group** - Together with the municipality, we supported health and wellness by starting an indoor walking group. Starting in January, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am to 10am in Emond Hall, participants could get their steps in regardless of the weather.

**Kids Drawing Challenge** -We're hosted a Drawing Challenge for Kids!

We asked the kids to draw us a picture that illustrates what you love about your library. One drawing will be featured in our upcoming strategic plan.

This drawing challenge was for kids ages 4-12 and 3 reversible plushie prizes were handed out!

Thank you to Fire Chief, Bryce Robinson, for drawing the winning ballots for our Drawing Challenge for Kids.

Congratulations to Ayva, Hope and Colton! We'll be in touch soon. Have a great weekend and thank you everybody for the amazing drawings. All drawings were on display at the library for the month of March.

**Class Visits** - It's fantastic to have our local school here every week! We read, play games and encourage their love of learning and libraries!

**March Break!** -Looking for something to do during March Break? Consider a visit to the library! We always have something happening!

Each day the library had a different planned activity:

Tuesday from 10am to 12pm: Storytime and Craft, alongside a free Dental Clinic from Public Health for anyone under the age of 18. This program was in partnership with the Metis Nation of Ontario.

Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm: Build your own Eclipse Viewer for the upcoming solar eclipse!

Thursday from 1pm to 3pm: Game day in the gym! We will have the Nintendo Switch hooked up to the big screen in the gym and board games available in the library.

Friday from 1pm to 3pm: Unleash your creativity and build your own terrarium.

Saturday from 1pm to 3pm: Create a Birch Bark craft with us!

In addition to these activities, the library had a collection of board games, video games, toys, and other passive activities that are always available.

We had more than 150 kids this year!

### **Easter Eggstravaganzaaaaaaa!!**

What a fantastic Easter Egg Hunt this year! Well over one hundred kids and their families came out to hunt! Thanks to everyone who came out and participated or volunteered their time to put on this community event.

We had a gorgeous Selfie station, (thank you Tanya, Emily, Amber & Bryce), hot chocolate was served, (I have the best board), the fire department was amazing, and we had crafts in the courtyard. Special thanks also to the Municipality of Hastings Highlands, Hastings Highlands Fire Department, and the Hastings Highlands Public Library Board for putting this event on with us.

**Kids Book Club!** - This November we started a book club - just for kids! Every Wednesday, HH kids meet at the library after school to talk about their favourite books, listen to a story and hang out with friends.

In March we recreated the fancy drinks from Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, along with some blue food (if you know, you know, and if you don't know, you should really check out the Percy Jackson series from the library!)

Our kids book club is drop-in, so new members are welcome to join at any time. We meet every Wednesday at 4pm to read a book together and participate in other fun activities.

(Check out the attached pic!)

**Book Club** - Every third Thursday the HHPL hosts book club for the adults. Everyone Welcome!

**Romp & Read!** – Toddler and caregiver Tuesdays, at the Library. Stories, snacks, gym time and crafts are the perfect combination of fun. Our ever-growing program is done in partnership with the Metis Nation of Ontario!

**Homeschool Support** - Attention all homeschoolers! The Hastings Highlands Public Library started hosting a monthly homeschoolers group to support homeschooling families. Students can expect a structured/STEM class, story time and gym time. **This has become so popular that we now offer this program every second Thursday. Please call for dates.**

**Come Drum with Me** – Sponsored by the EarlyOn Child & Family Centre, this very popular program Come Drum With Me is a toddler group that specializes literacy through drumming and teaches Indigenous cultural awareness through songs and music. Every Thursday, 10am-11am in the children's area.

**Provincial Parks Passes** – Why not “check out” a provincial park pass next time you visit us. We all know that spending time in nature improves our physical, mental, and social well-being and Parks Ontario has provided **three** provincial parks day passes to our library. Please call the library to reserve this free day pass.

**E-Resources Kanopy/Overdrive/Libby & More** – The HHPL is pleased to offer free access to many e-resources such as **Kanopy**, an online on-demand streaming video platform that offers over 30,000 films and documentaries, **Overdrive/Libby**, for e-books, audiobooks, magazines, and **Novelist**, for Reader’s Advisory. Patrons will be able to access these services using their HHPL library card. All of these, and more, can be found on our website.

**Financial impact:**

Not applicable

**Link to strategic plan:**

Not applicable

**References:**

Not applicable

**Attachments:**

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**Prepared By:**

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