



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council, Operations and Planning – 20 April 2022
To: Members of Council
From: Library CEO
Department: Library/Culture
Subject: Quarterly Library Cultural Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accepts the Quarterly Cultural Report as information only, as submitted by the Library CEO.

ORIGIN:

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

LAST QUARTER – (January – March 2022)

Curbside Pickup – With the January lockdown we continued curbside pickup to our patrons. We expect this service to continue even after restrictions ease for those members who might not be able to enter the Library for health reasons.

Display Cabinets – We've dusted off our beautiful, glass display cabinets. Local authors, reference and gifts are just some of the things you will find in them. Come for a visit!

Teen Drop-In – We had a very successful first Teen Drop-In program. Friendship bracelets, snacks and gym time were a hit. The group meets monthly for food, crafts and conversation. Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 19th.

Musical Instrument Lending Library – Wow! The response to our idea of starting a musical instrument lending library has been fantastic. Ukulele's, guitars, percussion instruments, violins and even an accordion have been donated! A grand opening will be celebrated soon – date to be determined. And to complement this initiative, live music can be enjoyed every Friday in the Library from 10-12. Thank you to our very supportive and musical community!

Seed Library – If you haven't botany plants lately, remain calm. Our seed library is open! Borrow some seeds with your library card, plant them, and at the end of the season let some go to seed and bring them to us. The goal of the Seed Library is to provide free and easy access to viable seeds so that as many people as possible can grow their own food. Our seed library provides people the opportunity to grow and nurture their *food literacy* and gardening skills.

Buttons, Buttons, Buttons! – We have a button making machine! Button making is a low-cost, high-impact, pop-up makerspace activity that is very popular with people of all ages.

Freedom to Read Week – “Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.” Our FtoR display this year highlighted books that were challenged in the past decade.

Indigenous Resource Centre Donation – We thank the Papineau Lake Community Association for their very generous donation of \$1000! These funds will go towards creating an Indigenous resource centre here at the HHPL.

Canada Reads List – The Canada Reads “Five books, five champions, one winner: CBC's annual Battle of the Books has been getting people listening, watching and, of course, reading, for the past 18 years.” This year’s theme was *One Book to Connect Us* and the winner was *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good. Come on over and check out one the Canada Reads books from the HHPL.

Black History Month - Celebrating Canadian Black Authors - check out the list of authors whose books we have here in the Library including children’s and Young Adult authors. We had a great display set up in the library in February.

HHPL Book Club – The first 2022 in person meeting of the monthly HHPL Book Club was in January with the book *Greenwood* by Michael Christie. February’s book was *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens and in March, *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson.

Cultural Corner/Gallery – Hastings Highlands is lucky to have so many great artists. January/February fibre arts artist Eliza Plumley was our first artist in 2022. Eliza loves to collect recycled and thrifted materials to create colourful works of textile art. She was born in Bancroft, Ontario and is a graduate of Sheridan College’s Textile program. March we hosted Toshika Hino, a woodworking artist from Lake St. Peter. In addition to trees, Toshi loves hand cut joinery, classic designs and Japanese aesthetics.

Grab ‘n’ Go Craft Activity bags – The Grab ‘n’ Go Craft Activity bags, (what we thought would only be a lockdown activity), have been so popular here at the HHPL that we will continue to offer these to families into the new year and Spring. With library and school closures, these activity bags have become a staple of library service. Patrons can reserve a bag and pick it up from the library.

Homeschooling Groups – This has grown! We now have three different homeschooling groups that meet here in the Library on a regular basis. Some groups come from as far away as Barry’s Bay. Our excellent collection and space, as well as our friendly and supportive staff have made this a welcome place to learn.

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.

Family Literacy Day – Wednesday, January 27th was the date for the annual Family Literacy Day. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. You can celebrate Family Literacy Day with a family read-aloud. This year we offered families Grab ‘n’ Go’s and curbside pickup.

Blind Date with a Book – February Fun! For a *Blind Date with a Book*, our librarians selected a variety of books, wrapped them up, and included a little information about each book on the outside. Patrons thought this was hilarious and so we extended it into March.

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.

Forest of Reading – Voting is now open! The Forest of Reading is Canada’s largest recreational reading program. This initiative of the Ontario Library Association offers ten reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. This year the library purchased the Blue Spruce, Silver Birch, Silver Birch Express and Yellow Cedar Collections. Generally, participants are asked to try and read all 10 nominated titles for Blue Spruce, and 5 out of 10 for the rest of the collections. However, the program leaves it to the library's discretion to allow votes from any school aged child who has read from the Forest of Reading collection, and so we encourage anyone who has read some or all nominated titles to vote on their favourite! You can also submit your vote online by emailing librarian@hastingshighlandslibrary.ca - Just tell us the category and what book was your favourite.

This year’s program was made possible through the generous donation of the Bancroft-Cardiff Kiwanis K-40 Club. Thank You!

DVD Pool & Large Print Pool – The DVD pool, formerly under the administration of SOLS staff and now under the administration of Hastings Highlands Public Library, was created to give member libraries the opportunity to provide or supplement a DVD collection to service their communities. This collection is intended to extend the information, education, and recreation resources of member libraries. Large Print Pool is there to provide member libraries to supplement their large print collection for low-vision patrons.

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.

The Latest Acquisitions – We continue to bring in new library materials each month. Below is a sampling of some of our latest acquisitions:

1. Scarborough by Catherine Hernandez
2. What Strange Paradise by Omar El Akkad
3. The Maid by Nita Prose
4. Finding the Mother Tree : Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest by Suzanne Simard
5. Blind Tiger by Sandra Brown
6. Deep House by Thomas King
7. The Sourdough Whisperer by Elaine Boddy
8. The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn
9. The Match by Harlan Coben
10. Shadows Reel by C.J. Box

CURRENT EVENTS:

Library Board – The Library Board will hold their next meeting on April 21st at 9:00am. The public are invited to email Wendy, (ceo@hastingshighlandslibrary.ca), if they wish to attend any Library Board meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Not Applicable

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Not Applicable

REFERENCES: