



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council, Operations and Planning - 20 Jan 2021
To: Members of Council
From: Rod Moffitt, 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 – (October to December 2020)

HHPL Book Club – Our online book club, operating on a new Facebook Group on our HHPL Facebook page is currently in operation. Two books that have been discussed are 'Brit-Marie was Here' by Frederik Backman and 'The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency' by Alexander McCall Smith.

Carpet Cleaning – Operations manager, Adrian Tomasini, arranged for the library carpets to be cleaned on Tuesday, December 29th. Thank you to Adrian for assisting in helping to keep our facilities clean and safe.

New shelving – As the result of a major cleaning of the Hastings Highlands Municipal Centre basement, some metal library shelving that was originally located there has been moved up to the library. The staff are rearranging the collection in order to use this additional shelving for our expanding collection.

Maynooth Foodbank – The HHPL conducted our annual food drive for the Maynooth foodbank in December. Food items were received and could be given in exchange for fine relief. The foodbank was appreciate of the donations from our community.

O Christmas Tree! – The HHPL participated in the Mainstreet Maynooth Christmas tree display over the Christmas season, sponsored by the Maynooth and Hastings Highlands business association. We placed 4 lighted trees in the front window. We also decorated the tree outside in front of the

Municipal building. Thanks to Adrian Tomasini for arranging the tree placement in front of the Municipal building.

Christmas Craft Activity bags – The HHPL assembled and handed out over 40 Christmas craft bags to families in December. Patrons could reserve a bag for their family and pick it up from the library. All materials required for the children to assemble a choice of 3 Christmas crafts were provided.

Forest of Reading – 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. The Forest of Reading helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. More than 270,000 readers participate annually from their school or public library. The HHPL has reading materials from Kindergarten to Young Adult. Reading passports for the Forest of Reading program can be picked up from the library. The passports are used to keep track of which books in each category have been read. We have reached out to local schools regarding participation in this exciting program.

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

- *The Last Days of John Lennon* by James Patterson
- *Piece of My Heart* by Mary Higgins Clark
- *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley
- *The Queen's Gambit* by Walter Tevis
- *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson
- *Dearly* by Margaret Atwood
- *The Return* by Nicholas Sparks
- *Blood in the Water: A True Story of Revenge in the Maritimes* by Silver Donald Cameron
- *How to Pronounce Knife* by Souvankham Thammavongsa
- *The Forgotten Orphan* by Glynis Peter

CURRENT EVENTS:

Library Board – The Library Board held their latest meeting on Thursday, January 14th at 9:00 am via Zoom. For the time being, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the public are invited to email Rod (ceo@hastingshighlandslibrary.ca) if they wish to attend any Library Board meetings.

Advertisements went out in the Bancroft Times/Bancroft This Week papers in December 2020 and January 2021 regarding the vacancy on the Library Board. The closing date for applications is Friday, January 22nd, 2021.

HHPL Library in Action – During this period of restrictions, the Hastings Highlands Public Library has continued to serve the residents of Hastings Highlands. From September 28th to December 24th we recorded a total of 286 in-person patron visits to the Library. Due to the provincial lockdown until Saturday, January 23rd, the library and municipal building is closed to the public. However, we are open for pick-up and drop-off Monday to Friday each week. Patrons can call (338-2262) or email (hhplcurbside@gmail.com) the library in order to request library materials. An appointment will then be set for the library materials to be picked up by the patron. Library materials can also be dropped off by putting them into the Library drop box anytime. From Monday, January 4th to Friday, January 8th, we recorded a total of 19 patron pick-ups!

Kanopy – The HHPL is pleased to begin offering ‘Kanopy’, an online on-demand streaming video platform that offers over 30,000 films and documentaries. Patrons will be able to access this service starting on Monday, January 18th using their HHPL library card.

HHPL Book Club - The book that is currently up for discussion at the HHPL Book Club is ‘Educated by Tara Westover. ‘Educated’ is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one’s life through new eyes and the will to change it. We miss our in-person meetings in front of the fireplace and look forward to resuming those times. We always welcome new members to the Book Club.

Quarterly Newsletter – The HHPL staff are starting a quarterly seasonal newsletter in order to keep our patrons informed regarding what is happening at the library. Our first newsletter (Winter) is scheduled for release on Monday, January 18th and will be available online through our website and social media. Hard copies will be available at the library and will be handed out with pick-ups.

Family Literacy Day – Wednesday, January 27th is 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. Reading books together as a family is a perfect way to spend time together while also increasing children’s reading skills. Please call the HHPL library to reserve a family activity bag for Family Literacy Day.

Blind Date with a Book – Blind Date with a book is back! During the month of February, ask a staff member to pick a ‘Blind Date’ book to add to your curbside order. Our librarians have selected a variety of books, wrapped them up, and included a little information about each book on the outside. You won’t know the ‘identity’ of your blind date until you check it out. If things don’t work out, just return it – no hard feelings! This is a good way to try reading a new author. Who knows? It may be true love at first page!

I Read Canadian – Wednesday, February 17th is ‘I Read Canadian’ Day. In order to participate, just stop and read a Canadian book for 15 minutes. This is a national celebration of Canadian books for young people, with the goal of elevating the genre, and celebrating its breadth and diversity. We also have an online game that helps you learn how to use the HHPL Online Catalogue for finding new books to read. Check our website for the game sheet.

Provincial Parks Passes – In order to promote physical activity, the Parks Ontario has provide three provincial parks day passes to the HHPL. They can be used throughout 2021. Please call the library to reserve your free day pass. We also received some \$5.00 off coupons that can be used for subsequent visits to the provincial parks.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Not Applicable

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Not Applicable

REFERENCES:

Not Applicable

Prepared By:

Rod Moffitt, Library CEO

Reviewed By: Municipal Clerk January 13, 2021

Reviewed By: CAO/Treasurer January 13, 2021