



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council, Operations and Planning - 19 Jan 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 – (October to December 2021)

HHPL Book Club – The first 2021 in person meeting of the monthly HHPL Book Club was in October with the book *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan. November's book was *Elinor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman and in December, *Elementary She Read* by Vicki Delaney. All were very well attended and although in-person programming has been suspended, we will continue offering this popular program in an alternative format.

HHPL's Food for Fines – The HHPL conducted our annual food drive for the Maynooth foodbank. From November 1st to December 15th non-perishable food items could be donated in exchange for fine relief. Thank you to the food bank and all who support our community.

Light up Main Street! – We all miss the amazing Maynooth Light up the Night Parade! The HHPL participated in the main street Maynooth light display over the Christmas season. We placed a large lighted tree in the main front window of the library, and library staff decorated the tree in front of the Municipal building. Thanks to Adrian Tomasini for arranging the tree placement in front of the Municipal building.

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 staple of library service. Patrons can reserve a bag and pick it up from the library.

Christmas Break Hours – Staff here at the HHPL were open for curbside pickup between the holidays on Dec. 29 & 30. Patrons could stock up on new books and movies to get them through the holidays!

Mobile Librarian - Our mobile librarian was at the Christmas market in Maynooth this year. Residents out Christmas shopping found they could also get a library card and sign out books at the same time!

Homeschooling Groups – The HHPL saw a few different homeschooling families and groups 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, Come Drum With Me is a toddler group that specializes literacy through drumming and teaches Indigenous cultural awareness through songs and music.

QR Codes – Due to the new restrictions in Ontario, the HHPL is moving to curbside pick-up and has cancelled all in-person programming. Those looking to book a vaccine appointment or have the QR code for proof of vaccination printed can call the library and should have their health card ready.

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. 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.

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

1. Fight Night by Miriam Toews
2. Go Tell the bees that I am Gone by Diana Gabaldon
3. Mercy by David Baldacci
4. The Apollo Murders by Chris Hadfield
5. Better Off Dead by Lee Child
6. The Sentence by Louise Erdrich
7. Wish You Were Here by Jodi Picoult
8. The Judge's List by John Grisham
9. The Vinyl Café Celebrates by Stuart McLean
10. The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict

CURRENT EVENTS:

Library Board – The Library Board will hold their latest meeting on January 20th at 9:00 am via Zoom. The public are invited to email Wendy, (ceo@hastingshighlandslibrary.ca), if they wish to attend any Library Board meetings.

HHPL Library in Action – During this period of restrictions, the Hastings Highlands Public Library has continued to serve the residents of Hastings Highlands. We are open for pick-up and drop-off Monday to Saturday each week. Patrons can call or E-mail the library to request books, dvd's, audiobooks, games and more, per curbside pickup. Library materials can also be dropped off by putting them into the Library drop box at anytime.

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.

HHPL Book Club - We miss our in-person meetings in front of the fireplace, and look forward to resuming soon. All in-person Library programs are cancelled for the month of January and possibly February. If there are changes, we will let you know and revise plans. In the meantime, we can continue to read our monthly novels and share our thoughts, online, at our Facebook HHPL Online Book Club, or with a written review and rating that you can include when you return your book. The dates below let you know when returns are due and when the next novel is ready for curbside pick up. We always welcome new members to the Book Club. Books will still be available for curbside pick up:

January 17th - Jan 22nd - Curbside Pick UP: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
Curbside Return: Greenwood

February 14th - February 19th Curbside Pick UP: The Gown by Jennifer Robson
Curbside Return: Where the Crawdads Sing

Quarterly Newsletter – The HHPL staff are always working on the next quarterly newsletter in order to keep our patrons informed regarding what is happening at the library. Our first newsletter of the year is scheduled for release on Monday, January 17th and will be available online through our website and social media. Hard copies will be available at the library, post office and other locations in Hastings Highlands.

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 – Go on a blind date with a book! When you request A Blind Date with a Book, you will receive a mystery book hand-picked from our large collection. Our librarians have selected a variety of books, wrapped them up, and included a little information about each book on the outside. Give one of our mystery books a try and see if you can fall in love with a new type of book.

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.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Not Applicable

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Not Applicable

REFERENCES: