



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council, Operations - 21 Apr 2021
To: Members of Council
From: Rod Moffit, Library CEO
Department: Library/Culture
Subject: Quarterly Library Cultural Report (January-March 2021)

Recommendation:

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

Background information:

LAST QUARTER – (January to March 2021)

Library Board – The HHPL Board conducted their regular meetings on Thursday, January 14th, Thursday, February 18th and Thursday, March 25th. A special meeting of the HHPL Board was held on Friday, January 29th.

Library Services – In March, in-person programming began again at the HHPL. We were able to re-introduce the Sew 'n sews group that met on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, the Music in the Library group that met on Fridays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, and the Knitting group that met on Wednesdays from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. We had plans to begin other in-person programming, making sure to stay within the Public Health guidelines.

Interlibrary Loan – Our interlibrary loan service began again in January. Patrons wishing to obtain a book that is not in the HHPL can fill out a request form and we will seek to obtain the book from another library in Ontario. Please check out our website for guidelines on how to request items through Interlibrary Loan.

New Quarterly Newsletters – Starting in 2021, the Hastings Highlands Public Library began putting out a quarterly newsletter to inform our patrons and members of the community about the exciting things that are happening at the library. Our first winter issue (January – March 2021) came out in January. The first spring issue (April – June 2021) will be posted on our website during the second week of April. Hard copies will be available at the Maynooth Post Office and will be posted at the LCBO and the Maynooth General Store.

Provincial Parks Passes – The HHPL has two Ontario Provincial Park day passes available to be signed out by patrons. They can be used at any Provincial Parks including Algonquin, Silent Lake, Lake St. Peter, Bonnechere, Carson Lake, Kawartha Highlands, and Petroglyphs.. Please call (613-338-2262) or email (hhplcurbside@gmail.com) to reserve your pass today.

E-Resources – With in-person visits to the library being limited, we promoted various e-resources that are available to our patrons from the comfort of their homes:

1. **A-Z World Travel** – This is an online city-by-city tourist and culture resource for anyone looking to expand their geographical knowledge.
2. **Britannica Library** – This resource contains fact-checked and objective articles, videos, biographies and more on a wide variety of subjects. It includes a separate area for children and youth.
3. **Gale Onefile** – This e-resource connects you to trusted content from leading magazines, newspapers and journals.
4. **Overdrive/Libby** – Sign out ebooks and audiobooks on your computer, tablet, KOBO or phone with your library card number.
5. **Novelist** – Find your next great read by using Novelist! This great tool will advise you of new books to check out. You can search for books through various filters such as character-driven or story-driven themes.
6. **Ancestry/Flickr/Our Digital World** – You can gain access to genealogy research, historical documents, and the Hastings Highlands Digital Archives through our website, www.hastingshighlandslibrary.ca/heritage-services. In order to preserve the local history of Hastings Highlands and the surrounding regions, the HHPL will accept contributions of historically relevant photographs and newspaper clippings.
7. **Kanopy** – You can have access through Kanopy to over 30,000 films and documentaries. Visit hastingshighlands.kanopy.com and sign in with your library card. Since our Kanopy subscription started at the end of January 2021, we have had 331 visits and 37 items viewed.

Family Literacy Day – Family Literacy Day was celebrated on Wednesday, January 27th. The purpose of this day was to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. The library prepared family activity bags for patrons to pick up to encourage family literacy time.

Good in Every Grain – The Grain Farmers of Ontario provided free seed planting kits designed to educate grade school students about where their food comes from, different types of grain, and how the grain plants grow. The kits contained wheat and soybean seeds, a soil wafer, a ho-to-plant guide, a colouring page and a ruler to measure plant growth. We ordered enough kits for library patrons as well as for two classes of students at Maynooth Public School.

Forest of Reading – The HHPL initiated the annual Forest of Reading program again this spring. The HHPL purchased all the books for the program for five different reading levels:

- **Blue Spruce** – Junior Kindergarten to Grade Two
- **Silver Birch** – Grades Three and Four
- **Silver Birch Express** – Grades Three to Grade Six
- **Yellow Cedar** – Grades Four to Eight
- **Red Maple** – Grades Seven and Eight

The library has a 'passport' for each category and each category has five to ten books in it. The passport allows the readers to record which books they have read, with goal of reading all the books. On April 23rd

St. Patrick's Day Activity Kits – To help our young patrons celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the HHPL provided grab 'n go activity kits. The kits contained information about St. Patrick's Day, colouring activities and crayons. We had a good response and will continue to assemble grab 'n go kits for other annual celebrations.

HHPL Student Bursary – The Hastings Highlands Public Library Student Bursary handed out five \$300.00 cheques in March to the 2020 applicants who completed their first semester of post-secondary studies. We want to continue providing encouragement for the youth of Hastings Highlands to pursue post-secondary education.

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

- *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah
- *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles
- *Win* by Harlan Coben
- *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn
- *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline
- *Surviving Savannah* by Patti Callahan
- *Blink of an Eye* by Iris Johansen
- *A Simple Murder* by Linda Castillo
- *Faithless in Death* by J.D. Robb
- *Missing and Endangered* by J.A. Jance

CURRENT EVENTS:

Library Board - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is on Thursday, April 22nd.

The HHPL Board would like to welcome new Board member, Neil Douglas. Neil will be attending his first regular meeting of the Board on Thursday, April 22nd.

• **Current Library Services** – Due to the current Provincial Lockdown, the HHPL library will be offering curbside pickup services and computer usage and photocopying/fax services by appointment during the following hours:

Mondays and Fridays (11:00 am – 1:45 pm)

Tuesdays and Thursdays (11:00 am – 5:45 pm)

Wednesdays (11:00 am – 3:45 pm)

Stay tuned for further updates, which will be posted on the HHPL website, regarding the provision of Library services throughout the continually changing Provincial restrictions.

Seed Library – The Hastings Community Seed Library is up and running in time for planting season. The Seed Library offers a variety of seeds for library patrons to ‘borrow’ free of charge to plant in their personal gardens. Once the plants have matured, those who have borrowed seeds are asked to harvest their seeds to return to the library for the next year. A seed saving guide is available online, or a printed copy may be requested for the flat rate of \$2.00. If any community member has additional seeds they would like to donate to support the seed library, please call or email us to arrange a drop-off.

Grab ‘n Go Kits – We have plans to provide ‘grab ‘n go’ kits for our young patrons:

- **Spring Break Kits** – There are four different activities available:
 - Knitting a washcloth. The kit comes with knitting needles, cotton yarn, a pattern and instructions on how to knit.
 - Creating an Earth Day t-shirt. The kit comes with a t-shirt, a turtle stencil, some bleach, a paint brush and instructions.

- Making golf ball ladybugs for the garden. The kit includes golf balls, paint and instructions.
- Making a bird feeder. The kit includes pine cones, lard and bird seed.
- **Mother's Day Kit** – This kit will involve planting a seed, growing a flower and making a bookmark.
- **Father's Day Kit** – This kit will involve planting a seed, growing an herb and making an old-fashioned kite.

TD Summer Reading Club – We are pleased to announce our annual participation in the TD Summer Reading Club. This year's new pilot project is the Sidewalk Story based on the book 'The Thing Lou Couldn't Do' by Ashley Spires. The laminated pages of this picture book will be placed throughout downtown Maynooth so that those participating in the walk will be able to read the book as they walk.

Financial impact:

Not Applicable

Link to strategic plan:

Not Applicable

References:

Not Applicable

Prepared By:

Rod Moffit, Library CEO

Reviewed By: Municipal Clerk April 12, 2021

Reviewed By: CAO/Treasurer April 14, 2021