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REPORT

TO: Members of Council

FROM: Rod Moffitt, CEO, Hastings Highlands Public Library

DATE: Wednesday, February 20, 2019, Regular Meeting of Council, Operations

**RE:** Monthly Library / Cultural Report

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**BACKGROUND:**

**Library Board** – The next Library Board meeting is on Wednesday, February 27th at 1:00 pm in the Program Room.

**Community Hub Youth Program –** The Hastings Highlands Public Library is entering a partnership with North Hastings Children’s Services (NHCS) as we move forward with our Community Hub Youth Program. As of Tuesday, February 19th, Taylor Grosklag, our Community Hub Youth Program Facilitator, has been hired in a full-time position with NHCS. Part of her new position will be continuing run the Community Hub Youth Program at the HHPL.

**Forest of Reading Kickoff –** Librarian Nancy Wimbush has been organizing our Forest of Reading program in cooperation with the students of Maynooth Public School. The Forest of Reading® is Canada's largest recreational reading program! This initiative of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) offers reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. More than 250,000 readers participate annually from their School and/or Public Library.

Students from Maynooth Public School have been provided ‘passports’ to the program where they can track the books that they have read. Nancy Wimbush provides read-alouds and book talks using the Forest of Reading books during regular class visits to the library. The HHPL has purchased thirty books for students and patrons to use. Later in the school year, students will have an opportunity to vote on their favourite books.

**French Book Collection –** The HHPL is developing their French Language book collection. They recently purchased 10 primary French books from the Forest of Reading Program. Students at Maynooth Public School will be using the books as well as some Library patrons who have asked for French language materials.

**HHPL Book Club –** The next meeting of the HHPL book club is on Thursday, February 14th at 1:00 pm by the fireplace. Members have been reading ‘The Rosie Project’ by Graeme Simsion. The next book that they will be tackling is ‘North of Normal’ by Cea Sunrise Person. Come on out for stimulating and lively discussion about the current book. Club members choose what books they will be reading.

**Blind Date with a Book –** For the month of February, our library staff have created a ‘Blind Date with a Book’ display which is directly in front of the entrance doors. On the display are books from different genres that have been wrapped so as to conceal their identity. A small teaser has been written on the wrapping in order to give the reader a hint about the book. This gives patrons the opportunity to try a book that they might not normally read and to become exposed to new authors.

**Winter Yoga –** Yoga is back at Hastings Highlands Public Library led by a certified yoga instructor. Classes will be held in the Emond Hall every Wednesday from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm for the months of February, March and April. Donations to the library can be made at the class.

**Knitting / Crocheting / Embroidery Circle –** Every Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 pm, Leslie Eden is present at the library to be an instructor in our new knitting / crocheting / embroidery circle being held by the fireplace. Come on out and make some beautiful creations under the direction of an expert.

**Movie and a Potluck –** Our first ‘Movie and a Potluck’ on Friday, February 1st was a box-office success. Over 23 people came to enjoy a time of sharing delectable dishes and watching the movie, ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’. The ‘Movie and a Potluck’ will be occurring every first Friday evening of the month, with our next event on Friday, March 1st. The Potluck begins at 6:00 pm with the movie being shown starting at 7:00 pm. The admission is $5.00 per person. Check our Facebook site to vote on what movie you would like to see next.

**ASL –** Our ever-popular American Sign Language classes are continuing at HHPL. Classes are being held on the following dates: Saturdays February 9th and 23rd, March 2nd, 16th, 23rd and 30th. There are two sessions per day from 11:00am – 12:00 pm and 12:30 – 1:30 pm. Please call to reserve a spot in the class.

**Homeschool group –** The first ‘Home Schooling Meet-up’ will be occurring on Monday, February 25th from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. This meeting is for families who are currently home schooling or interested in starting. This is an opportunity for people to meet other home schooling families, share resources, ask questions, share experiences and brainstorm ways to create a community of support. Healthy snacks will be provided.

**Black History month –** A display has been set up in the Cultural Corner area of the Library with books from the HHPL Black History collection. Information is available about notable Black Canadian citizens.

**North Hastings Music Festival –** The syllabus for the North Hastings Music Festival is available at the circulation desk. The NHMF will be occurring from May 6 – 10, 2019. Submissions to the festival are due by Friday, March 8th.

**Kritter Korner -** Korbin Paradis conducted another successful Kritter Korner in the library on Saturday, February 9th. Many young people were able to drop by on the market day and pet their favourite ‘kritter’.

**Socks North Hastings –** This is a new initiative being spear-headed by Judy Hatton. The HHPL has created a drop-off box by the library entrance door to collect donations of new socks. The socks that are donated here will be distributed in Hastings Highlands to residents who are in need of warm socks. Names of those who could use new socks can be forwarded to Judy Hatton through the Library and arrangements will be made to deliver the socks. Judy is hoping that the program can be expanded to include the schools. Check out the following website: [www.sockswarminghearts.com](http://www.sockswarminghearts.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Moffitt, Library CEO