



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council, Operations - 20 Oct 2021
To: Members of Council
From: Kristin Seaborn, Acting 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 Acting Library CEO.

Origin:

Not applicable

Background information:

LAST QUARTER – (July to September 2021)

Library Board – The HHPL Board held their latest regular meeting on Friday, September 24th at 9:00am.

Library Services - With Ontario entering Step 2 in the Roadmap to Reopen on June 30th, the library was able to reopen to the public on Monday, July 5th, 2021 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. We continued offering curbside pickup services and computer usage by appointment on Wednesdays and Thursdays during Step 2, but fully opened the library doors Monday to Friday following Step 3 on July 19th. During the first week of being fully open Monday to Friday, the library received 153 visitors. As of August, the library further extended the hours of operation to bring back Saturdays.

The hours are as follows:

Mondays: 11am – 1:45pm
Tuesdays: 11am – 5:45pm
Wednesdays: 11am – 3:45pm
Thursdays: 11am – 5:45pm
Fridays: 11am – 1:45pm
Saturdays: 11am – 1:45pm
Sundays: Closed

Library Programming - We have been slowly reintroducing some of our in-person programming at the HHPL, making sure to stay within the Public Health guidelines. We were able to re-introduce the

Sew n' Sews group on Wednesday afternoons from 1pm – 3pm starting on Wednesday, August 4th. The Knitting group also takes place on Wednesdays from 1pm – 3pm and started back up on Wednesday, September 8th. The Come Drum with Me program, which is a partnership with North Hastings Children's Services, started back up on Thursday, September 9th and will run weekly on Thursdays from 10am – 11am. Pre-registration is required by emailing register@nhcs.ca. Book Club also restarted in September. The first book that the club is reading is Washington Black by Esi Edugyan and the discussion about this book will be on Thursday, October 21st at 1pm. Pre-registration is required to attend the Book Club discussion by calling the library 613-338-2262 or by email at info@hastingshighlandslibrary.ca

Donations - The library received a \$30 donation for the Student Bursary Fund.

Book Sale – Our summer-long book sale came to a close just after Thanksgiving. We sold books by donation and the proceeds from our book sale were approximately \$1000.00.

Passive Programming – Throughout the summer, we had craft activity kits and colouring and activity pages available for children at the library to take home or to sit and complete in the library during their visit.

TD Summer Reading Program – The TD Summer reading Club was a great success this summer at Hastings Highlands Public Library, with 40 children participating! Throughout the summer we had a display of books in the children's section that were from the TD Summer Reading Program's top recommended reading list for kids this summer. Children were encouraged to leave a review of the books that they had checked out and read from our library's collection in order to get their name into a draw for a chance to win a prize. At the end of the summer, we awarded prizes to the seven lucky winners.

HHPL Student Bursary – Hastings Highlands Public Library Board is extending the deadline for applications for the HHPL Student Bursary until November 30th, 2021.

The Latest Acquisitions (July - September) – We continue to bring in new library materials each month. Below is a sampling of some of our latest acquisitions for adults:

The Bone Code by Kathy Reichs
The Warsaw Orphan by Kelly Rimmer
The President's Daughter by James Patterson & Bill Clinton
While Justice Sleeps by Stacey Abrams
Tom Clancy's Target Acquired by Don Bentley
Survive the Night by Riley Sager
The Forest of Vanishing Stars by Kristin Harmel
Another Kind of Eden by James Lee Burke
The Last Guide's Guide by Ron Corbett
The Madness of Crowds by Louise Penny

CURRENT EVENTS:

Library Board - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is on Friday, October 22, 2021 at 9am.

Library Staffing – Rod Moffitt informed the Library Board of his retirement from the position of CEO of the Hastings Highlands Public Library as of Saturday, October 30th, 2021. The Library Board has commenced the process for hiring a new CEO.

Staff Professional Development - Library staff members Jessica O'Reilly and Tiffany Dalley have registered for the Excel course 'Public Library Programming'. The course is offered through the Ontario Library Service.

Quarterly Newsletter – HHPL's fall issue of the newsletter is posted on our website and Facebook page. Hard copies will be available at Hastings Highlands Public Library, the Maynooth Post Office and other local businesses.

Forest of Reading - We have registered for the 2021-2022 Forest of Reading program. 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. Forest of Reading books should be available to borrow from Hastings Highlands Public Library in early 2022.

Fall Reading Challenges – We have reading challenges happening for kids, young adults and adults and there are some cool prizes to be won! All our patrons need to do to get their name entered into the draw is get a library card (if you don't already have one) or check out some books to read or leave a quick review of a really good book. More information is available in our fall newsletter, on our Facebook page or feel free to talk to one of our Librarians! The draws for the reading challenge prizes will take place and be announced during Ontario Public Library Week.

Canadian Library Month - October is **Canadian Library Month!** During this month, libraries and library partners across Canada raise awareness of the valuable role libraries play in Canadians' lives. In Ontario, we celebrate our public libraries during **Ontario Public Library Week (OPLW)**, on October 17th – 23rd, 2021.

Ontario Public Library Week (OPLW) – HHPL has a special event to mark OPLW. Author Brock Greenhalgh is presenting his book: *Hard Road to Victory: The Chatham All-Stars Story*, for our library community. If you are interested in baseball, Ontario history and honouring the legacy of Black Canadians – this author talk will be right up your alley! This is a Zoom presentation and will require pre-registration to participate. Please sign up by telephone at 613-338-2262, email hhplcurbside@gmail.com, or in person at the front desk. There is no cost to participants and you will be asked to provide an email address so that we can send a link for the presentation.

First Nations Public Library Week - First Nations Public Library week is October 4th – 8th, 2021 and HHPL has recently acquired some titles from the First Nations Communities Read Awards, which are available for our patrons to borrow. We will also have a display set up in the library of indigenous titles in honour of First Nations Public Library Week.

Halloween Grab and Go – We will have a Halloween Grab and Go Kit containing a special Halloween craft and Halloween treat bags for children available for pick up during the week leading up to Halloween (October 25th – October 30). If you are looking for a Halloween book as well, we have you covered! We will have our Halloween books on display for easy browsing.

Food for Fines – We are inviting our patrons to bring in non-perishable food items this holiday season (between November 1st and December 15th) for the Maynooth & Area Food Bank in exchange for clearing any fines you may have accumulated on your account. All who wish to donate are welcome.

Holiday Hours – HHPL will be closed December 25th to 28th and December 31st to Jan 3rd 2022. The Library will be open on Wednesday, December 29th and Thursday, December 30th, 2021 during the holidays.

Financial impact:

Not applicable

Link to strategic plan:

Not applicable

References:

Not applicable

Prepared By:

Kristin Seaborn, Acting Library CEO

Reviewed By: Municipal Clerk October 7, 2021

Reviewed By: CAO/Treasurer October 13, 2021