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REPORT

TO: Members of Council

FROM: Rod Moffitt, CEO, Hastings Highlands Public Library

DATE: Wednesday, August 15, 2018, 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 Library Board met for a special summer meeting to accept and approve the 2017 audited financial statements as submitted by the auditor Collins Barrow Kawarthas LLP. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 6 at 8:30 am in the Program room at the Library.

Rod Moffitt completed his first Excel course offered through the Southern Ontario Library System on Basic Library Management.

Tiffany Dalley, Information Tech Services Librarian, has completed an Excel course on Readers’ Advisory Tools and Practice.

**Community Hub Youth Program –** Staff and volunteers at the Hastings Highlands Public Library have been working hard to get youth involved in the community and create more youth-centred programs. Starting in June, Thursday evenings have been designated as drop-in sessions where young people can stop by to use the Library facility, have access to programs, computers, books, and enjoys snacks while discussing relevant topics affecting local young adults today. Five regular teens and occasional guests have been attending. Other special events have included workshops, movies, and dances.

Future Community Hub events to look forward to include Thursday evening drop-ins from 4:00 – 6:00 pm in the Library's program room, month-end dances, workshops, movies on the big screen, and continuous access to resources and support through the community hub Facebook page and youth corner in the Library.

It is our goal for the Community Hub to continue to be a space where young people can feel welcome, grow as individuals, find their interests through experiences, and discover how they can give back to their community.

**Community Hub Youth Dance –** Friday, July 27th, marked the first youth dance at the Hastings Highlands Emond Centre. This was a beach theme dance from 6:00-9:00 pm where fifteen local youth, ages 10-16, attended to sport their most creative beach attire and showcase their dance moves for a chance to win prizes donated from local community businesses. Special thanks to Sun Run Cafè, Hastings Highlands Hot Tubs, Memories, Madawaska Art Shop, Toadestone Craftworks, Foxfire Gallery, Gifts & Antiques, Old Peterson Road Gallery, Brush with the North, Cassidy’s and the Valley Gourmet Samosa Factory in Maynooth for their generous donations and support. The event was supervised by Library Staff and Parents, and fun was had by all.

**Loyalist Resume Writing Workshop for Youth -** On Tuesday, July 24th, the Library’s Community Hub partnered with Rebecca Malloy from the Loyalist College Community Employment Centre to teach four local youth about cover letter and resume writing, job searching, interview preparation, and employers’ expectations. During this time, the youth in attendance were encouraged to ask question and prepare resumes not only for jobs they were currently looking for but in preparation for long-term careers.

**HHPL Mystery Day Camp –** The Library Mystery Day camp occurred from August 7-10. Participants were involved in daily mysteries where they had to find out ‘who did it’. They made a list of suspects, participated in games where they had to find clues to solving the mystery in the library. Many thanks to our Summer Students, Korbin and Ria for planning an exciting event for our young sleuths.

**Turtle On to Maynooth –** On Saturday, July 21st from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm there was a special presentation in the program room at the Library by Wendy Baggs, the education coordinator from the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (OTCC). With a good turnout, Wendy provided an interesting and interactive program with her four turtle ambassadors: Andrea (Blanding’s Turtle), Picasso (Midland painted turtle), Rusty (wood turtle) and Paddy (snapping turtle). Some of the topics covered at the presentation were the identification of Ontario’s eight turtle species and the threats to Ontario’s turtles. Wendy also outlined the work that the OTCC does to conserve Ontario’s turtles including rehabilitation, education and research.

**New Computers –** The Library received three new computers in the third week of July. They were placed in our high-use area around the post by the circulation desk. One of the former computers was placed in the business centre to replace a computer that was not functioning. The Library Board is entering a five-year plan to evergreen our computer hardware by acquiring three new computers each year for the next five years.

**TD Summer Reading Program –** This is Canada’s biggest summer reading program for kids of all ages. Participants can be involved in the club at the library, online or on the road. Each participant gets to access free recommended books, read books online accessible through the HHPL website and get reading recommendations. They track their reading progress through getting stickers for their personal notebooks or online badges. They can also connect with other readers across Canada. Currently there are eight participants registered at our library.

**Owl Crate –** This is a Summer reading challenge for young adults ages 12 and up. The purpose of the Owl Crate is to encourage summer readers to read three books from any author, series or genre for each entry into the draw for the Owl Crate box. The purpose of the program is to encourage young teens to know and interact with our young adult collection and other library resources. The draw for the Owl Crate will be on Friday, August 31st. The Owl Crate is based on a chosen book theme and contains a selection of a highly anticipated popular book, unique fan art of different genres and other book theme related merchandise. This month’s Owl Crate is based on the ‘Strange and Unusual’ theme.

**Adult Fall Reading Challenge –** We will be starting a Fall Mystery Adult Reading Challenge in September, with a box prize containing donations from the community and a gift book.

**Indian Cooking Classes –** A series of three Indian Cooking Workshops is occurring at the Hastings Highlands Public Library Program Room in August. Mixed vegetable fritters will be made on Friday, August 3rd (11:00 am – 2:00 pm), Chicken tikka masala on Saturday, August 4th ( 11:00 am – 2:00 pm) and Chana masala on Tuesday, August 7th (3:00 – 5:00 pm). The price for all three workshops is $60.00 which includes all the materials needed. To sign up, please email riabshah@gmail.com. There is a limit of six participants. Future classes may be added. Please check the HHPL website.

**Group of Seven Donation –** The Hastings Highlands Public Library is now the home of a newly acquired Group of Seven print, courtesy of Carl Minnie from Bancroft. Carl, whose extended family hails from the Maynooth area, donated the print entitled ‘Rain in the Mountains’. The original painting was created in 1924 by Group of Seven artist, James Edward Hervey MacDonald. J.E.H. MacDonald was one of the original founders of the Group of Seven.

**Summer Yoga –** Julie Vanderwal has been conducting her popular yoga classes. So far she has had a Yoga Stretch class, Yoga Nidra class and Kids Yoga class with good turnouts. Please check the Library Website and Facebook page for dates and times.

**Summer Movies at the Library** – We are excited to be offering a selection of movies at the HHPL in August. Every Thursday evening from 7:00 – 9:00 pm and Saturday afternoon from 12:00 – 1:30 pm there is a showing in the Emond Centre. We have a concession stand with popcorn, water, pop and chips. Please check the Library Website and Facebook page for dates, times and admission prices

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**n/a**

**REFERENCES:**

**n/a**

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Moffitt, Library CEO