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REPORT

To: Members of Council

From: Rod Moffitt, CEO, Hastings Highlands Public Library

Date: **February 21, 2018, Regular Meeting of Council, Operations**

**Re:** Monthly Library / Cultural Report

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**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**BACKGROUND**

**Library Staffing –** Rod Moffitt was hired as the new interim CEO of the

Hastings Highlands Public Library as of Thursday, February 8, 2018. This is a six month position at 26 hours per week. He is being assisted with orientation by Library Board Chair, Marjory MacPherson as well as the capable library staff, Jessica O’Reilly, Tiffany Dalley and Nancy Wimbush. Rod joins the library staff after a thirty year teaching career in York Region D.S.B. and Hastings Prince Edward D.S.B. He has seven years of administrative experience as Vice Principal of the former North Hastings Senior Elementary School and Bancroft Public School. He has a Masters Degree in Music and A.R.C.T. Degree in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. He is looking forward to working with the Library Board and staff, the Hastings Highlands staff and the patrons of the Hastings Highlands Library.

**Library Board –** The Hastings Highlands Library Board would like to welcome two new members to the Board : Valerie Loney and Garfield McAdam. Valerie has a B.A. and a B.Ed. and taught in the 2 elementary schools in Hastings Highlands for 30 years.  She and her husband Tom Conyers have lived in Maple Leaf for almost 30 years.  Since retiring in June 2016, Valerie has been able to spend more time painting, cycling, skiing, and traveling. Now she is ready to put her skills and experience to work in an effort to help her community. Garfield joins our Board as a new member of our community. He taught adult education and post secondary business at Northern College for 32 years. Garfield has published three books of short stories and two novellas which he plans to donate to the HHP Library. He is an experienced library board member, having served on the Library Board and Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing for six years.

**STEAM Cart –** From a technology grant, the Library purchased a STEAM cart (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics). On the Library floor since January, this colourful cart contains many hands-on materials available for use (i.e. Little Bit Circuits, Art supplies, Fidget spinners, Patterning/Math activities, Counting games, OSMO – patterning on an ipad…). It is geared for youth aged 6 – 10 years of age. The STEAM cart was the centrepiece of our Kid Inventor’s Day on January 19, 2018. On that day, we had at least four families attend throughout the day who played with the Code-A-Pillar and littlebits with their children.

**Forest of Reading** – Nancy Wimbush has been organizing our first foray into the 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. All Ontarians/Canadians are invited to participate via their local public library, school library, or individually.

**Goals of the Forest of Reading**

* Love of reading: Create a meaningful experience for your readers and create exciting opportunities for reluctant readers to create lifelong readers.
* A proven head start: The results are in! Children who read for fun have higher literacy scores, have more success in science and math, and are more socially and civically engaged (Reading for Joy, P4E, 2011).
* Libraries at centre stage: With fun activities, prizes and more, the Forest of Reading puts libraries at the heart of the action!
* Reading Canadian: Help support and celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators by taking advantage of the Forest’s curated, all-Canadian reading lists for all ages and levels.

Korbin Paradis has created a ‘tree’ on the library wall in the children’s area where Forest of Reading participants can record their feedback on what their favourite books were and what they liked about them. The leaves will then be displayed on the tree.

**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. Over half of the sixty books designated for this programme have been signed out to date.

**Critter Corner –** On Saturday, February 3rd, 2018, the Library held it’s first ever Critter Corner, organized by Korbin Paradis. The event occurred in the gym from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Korbin brought a number of pets in (i.e. tree frogs, a baby tarantula, some lizards, two turtles, a snake, a chicken and three rats) and children were able to hold them and pet them. Around ten children and their families attended and had a great time. Photos of this event are available on Facebook.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**n/a**

**REFERENCES**

**n/a**

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Moffitt, Library CEO