

SOLS Board Summary

June 2006

Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

Elections were held for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Jim Neill was the successful candidate for Chair. Jim was elected to SOLS' Board from Trustee Council 6 in 2002 and served as Vice-Chair of SOLS' Board last year. Jim is a former Chair of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library Board and has been on the board there for eleven years. Jim was also a member of Kingston City Council for six years. He is a high school drama teacher and a Teacher-Librarian with Upper Canada School Board.

Brenda Carrigan was the successful candidate for Vice-Chair. Brenda was elected to SOLS' Board from Trustee Council 5 in 2002. Brenda is Vice-Chair of the Clarington Public Library Board. She is a professional librarian whose career spanned several countries (including Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada) and culminated with 29 years at the Oshawa Public Library. She retired as CEO of Oshawa Public Library in 1996.

New Board Members

SOLS' Board is composed of fifteen trustees elected from our client libraries through the Trustee Councils and five ministerial nominees. The Board welcomed six new members at the June meeting. Biographies of new board members are a feature of *Signal*, SOLS' monthly email newsletter, and are published on SOLS' website.

Name	Affiliation
Lorraine Bourdeau	Ministerial
Ian Brebner	Ministerial
Jill Cameron	Ministerial
George Hodgkinson	Trustee Council 7/Pembroke Public Library
Donna Kenwell	Ministerial
Karen McGrath	Ministerial

SOLS' Board Size

At the September Board meeting, the Board initiated a review of its size and composition with a goal of reducing expenses. While the Board has already reduced frequency of meetings to three (saving \$5,000 per year), it is also considering a proposal to reduce Board size to thirteen which would save a further \$5,000 per year. The proposed reduction would mean that most Trustee Councils would have only one elected representative on SOLS Board where they currently have two. As part of its consideration, the Board decided that the matter should be discussed with the Trustee Councils themselves which was accomplished at the spring meetings. Feedback from the Trustee Councils tended towards maintaining the status quo. The Board is taking on some significant projects, such as fundraising and MPP visits, and needs a number of people to make these initiatives successful. With this feedback, the Board decided not to pursue downsizing at this time.

Trustee Council Elections

Pending the outcome of its review of size and composition, the Board left two elected positions vacant last fall. At the June meeting, the Board passed a motion that these vacancies be filled. Elections will be held at the fall meetings of Trustee Councils 4 and 6 which each have one vacancy to fill.

Library Program Review

The Deputy Minister of Culture announced the Library Program Review at the OLA conference in February. It is proceeding in 2006 for completion in the fall and draft terms of reference have been prepared. The project objective is "To undertake a broad review of the Province's public library sector support, and to develop a framework for delivery of provincial support, with a view to ensuring that the provincial investment brings the greatest benefit to public libraries and their users, and to establishing the most productive role for the Province in meeting the needs of public libraries."

To enable it to provide input to the Review, SOLS Board has formed an ad hoc committee to develop a vision of what SOLS' role should be going forward. It will use Vision 2010 from *Building Value Together* as a starting point for this discussion. The ensuing report will be submitted to the Minister for consideration.

Assurance of Funding – Fundraising

In April, SOLS' Board launched its 2006 campaign to solicit individual donations for SOLS' Innovation Fund. The intent of this fund is to allow us to take advantage of new products and services that can be offered to our libraries. Last year, we were able to provide subsidies for library participation in the shared ebook collection. This year we will continue this subsidy for libraries under 15,000 population and First Nations libraries. We encourage individuals and libraries to make a donation by clicking "Support SOLS" on our website.

Annual Report 2005/06

SOLS' Annual Report will be published shortly and will be available both in hardcopy and on the web.

Release of Grant Thornton Report

The Ministry of Culture engaged the consulting firm of Grant Thornton to conduct a financial review of SOLS and OLS-North last fall. Findings and recommendations were submitted to the Ministry and the final report was released to the Board in February. Ministry staff reported that the report is due for public release momentarily. The report will be copied to those organizations that were consulted during the review. It will be available on request to all others.

Operations Planning Quarterly Update

An update on SOLS' services is available at www.sols.org.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of SOLS' Board is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at SOLS' office in Toronto.