

SOLS Board Summary

June 2008

New Board Members

The June 13/14, 2008 meeting was the inaugural meeting of the new Board. SOLS' Board is composed of fifteen trustees elected from our client libraries through the Trustee Councils (TC) and five ministerial nominees. The Board serves for a four year term. We were pleased to welcome the following new members to the Board:

Name	Provenance	Local Board
Bob Coryell	TC 4	Tay Township
Virginia DiLauro	TC 2	Caledon
Karen Dubeau	TC 5	Newmarket
Dave Jones	TC 1	Middlesex County
Claudette Richardson	TC 6	Kingston-Frontenac
Jean Rixen	TC 6	Deseronto
Larry Stewart	TC 1	Brant County
Patricia Symon	TC 3	Bruce County

The following Board members continue their affiliation with SOLS:

Name	Provenance	Local Board
Lynne Baxter	TC 8	North Grenville
Lorraine Bourdeau	Ministerial	
Ian Brebner	Ministerial	Middlesex County
Jill Cameron	Ministerial	
Brenda Carrigan	TC 5	Clarington
Bob Ernest	TC 3	Waterloo
Sandy French	TC 2	Halton Hills
George Hodgkinson	TC 7	Pembroke
Jackie Houde	TC 8	Cornwall
Donna Kenwell	Ministerial	Springwater
Karen McGrath	Ministerial	

SOLS Chair and Vice-Chair

With the retirement of Jim Neill from SOLS' Board, Vice-Chair Brenda Carrigan has assumed the position of Chair pending elections at the next Board meeting. George Hodgkinson was appointed interim Acting Vice-Chair for the same period.

\$15 Million Investment in Public Libraries

Southern Ontario Library Service has just received \$15 million from the Ministry of Culture to be used in collaboration with Ontario Library Service-North "for the purpose of supporting public libraries' efforts to provide equitable access to a range of digital information, community collections and services to Ontarians. The letter lists the following objectives:

- Bridging the digital divide through investments that will improve services and access by supporting the implementation of new technology, in particular for small, rural and remote public libraries;
- Enhancing access to community collections through investment in library collection development in strategic areas, such as French language, multicultural, health and literacy, and digitization;
- Strengthening public library professionals' capacity to meet and keep pace with the library service and digital information needs of their communities.

SOLS and OLSN are embarking on a consultation process with client libraries and other key library organizations. There will be five regional meetings in each of the OLS areas between July 17th and 31st plus teleconferences early in August for those unable to attend one of the meetings. We will also organize meetings with key library organizations to receive their input. Invitations to the consultations have recently been sent. We hope you will participate.

Assurance of Funding - SOLS' Business Plan 2008/09

SOLS submits an annual business plan to the Ministry of Culture. At the end of May, we received approval our 2008/09 plan and confirmation of our operating grant of \$2,755,905. We were also the recipient of a grant from the Library Strategic Development Fund in the amount of \$49,998 to support the Advancing Public Library Leadership (APLL) Institute. This grant enables SOLS to launch this new program this fall. We have also received a total of \$8,645 for four positions under the Summer Experience program for youth. Still pending are the final confirmations of our capital, First Nations Consulting and Connectivity grants.

Following confirmation of our business plan, we posted our Operations Plan for the year on our website under About SOLS – Plans and Annual Reports. Similarly an update on activities to date under this plan is available there.

Assurance of Funding – MPP Contacts

SOLS' first contact with MPPs following the election last fall was a letter congratulating them on their success and enclosing the Annual Report. The Board also developed a plan for visiting the fifteen newly elected MPPs in SOLS' service area to introduce them to SOLS. Five of these visits have been completed to date and, in addition, four visits have been made to re-elected MPPs. For this summer, the Board is targeting thirteen more visits to a mix of new and re-elected MPPs. The key messages for these visits are SOLS' priorities, opportunities and challenges.

Assurance of Funding – Fundraising

SOLS' Board continues to solicit individual donations for SOLS' Innovation Fund. This year's target is \$10,000 and just over \$5,000 has been raised to date. SOLS is a registered charity and issues tax receipts for all donations. Donations may be made through Canada Helps by clicking "Support SOLS" on our website.

Linkage Development – OSUM and AMO

SOLS participated in the trade show at the OSUM (Ontario Small Urban Municipalities) conference in Collingwood from April 30th to May 2nd. The exhibits were open over two days and 36 people, mostly municipal councilors, visited SOLS' booth. Similarly, SOLS will be participating in the Ministry of Culture booth at the AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) conference in Ottawa in August. Our portion of the booth will be staffed by SOLS board and staff members and we will have SOLS' Annual Report and Brief Listing of Services available as handouts. The purpose of our participation in these conferences is to raise the profile of SOLS with municipal decision-makers and the MPPs who attend the conference.

Annual Report 2007/08

The Board approved the audited financial statements as well as the Annual Report for 2007/08 at this meeting. They are now available on our website under About SOLS – Plans and Annual Reports. The Annual Report will also be published in hardcopy and distributed to client libraries, MPPs and provided as handouts at the AMO booth.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of SOLS' Board is scheduled for Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18, 2008 at SOLS' office in Toronto.