



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: JUNE 23, 2011

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| Session: | Public Session |
| Subject: | Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) Spring Trustee Council Meeting, April 16, 2011, LPL Stoney Creek Branch Library |
| Prepared By: | Gloria Leckie |
| Presented By: | Gloria Leckie |
| Purpose of Report: | For Receipt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this report be received.

BACKGROUND & REVIEW

Trustees from our area meet twice a year to hear about new initiatives of the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) and to exchange information with each other. Present were public library Trustee representatives from Brant, Chatham-Kent, Huron County, London, Middlesex County, Oxford County, St. Thomas and Woodstock.

The SOLS update included:

- news of the additional \$3 million that SOLS has been given by the provincial government to help sustain public library services;
- updating of the Trillium policy manual on the SOLS website, with policy examples that can be freely used by library boards;
- the Library Board Development Kit has also been updated;
- new Interlibrary Loan software for the province will be available shortly to all public libraries;
- SOLS is holding a workshop on Services to Multicultural Communities in June in Toronto, geared to frontline library staff.

Trustees then gave an overview of issues or events from their library systems. Notable were:

1. **Chatham-Kent** is struggling to have the library board recognized as a separate entity rather than a committee of Council.
2. **Oxford County** has been refurbishing some of its locations and as a result, has seen a growth in library use.
3. **St. Thomas** is undergoing a major renovation, necessitating that the library move from its central location to a mall while renovations are completed. A massive fundraising project has been part of the renovation. The old building has many building code issues, including accessibility, fire and structural concerns. Renovations should be done by December.
4. **Huron** is in the process of appointing a new CEO. There is some concern over how the Board operates, as the trustee meetings are usually only an hour and are rather perfunctory. The Board needs to be more involved in strategic planning.
5. **Brant** has a new strategic plan and is working on a large historical digitization project involving the Penmans corporate archive. The project has had a very positive effect on the local community and it is hoped that other local documents can be digitized. Also, Brant is doing a study of the makeup of their community, as there have been new subdivisions and it is unclear what the demographics currently are.
6. **Middlesex** has been evaluating the performance of their branches and has closed three. However, a large new branch is being built at Komoka, combined with an arena complex. It should be open by Labour Day.
7. **Woodstock** has only the central library but they badly need another branch in the east of the community, particularly since the community has grown due to industrial development.

The next Trustee Council meeting is November 12th in the new Komoka library.