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## Ian Balsillie County's First SOLS Trustee Council Representative

Ian M. Balsillie, former member of County Council and current chairman of the Prince Edward County Library Board, is the first person from this area to serve on the Southern Ontario Library Service Trustee Council, where he is chairman of Region #6.

The Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) is an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Culture, operating at arm's length and under the authority of a 20-member board. Five members of the board are nominated directly by the Ministry, and 15 are elected from Trustee Councils. Trustee Councils are regional meetings of trustees and are training and information-sharing opportunities.

All libraries are invited to appoint a representative to their local Trustee Council (as was Mr. Balsillie). It is these representatives who are eligible for election to the SOLS Board. Ian Balsillie was elected as both SOLS Board member and chair of Trustee Council #6.

As deputy-reeve of the former South Marysburgh Township, Mr. Balsillie took part in the amalgamation of ten lower-tier communities and one county into a single municipal government in 1998. Upon retiring from municipal politics in 2001, he became chair of the Prince Edward County Library Board and that same year, after the reorganization of the Regional Trustee Councils became chair of Region #6.

Ian Balsillie has had a varied and interesting career. Born in England's Lake District, he immigrated to Canada following his discharge from the Royal Navy, where he had served from 1943-1948. In this country he earned a degree in agriculture from the University of Guelph. Subsequently, he was employed by the Ontario government as an agricultural engi-

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