



Alex Lamont

Interview with new County Warden

By Kerry Kitchenham

Reeve Alex Lamont of R.R. 5 Paisley, in Saugeen Township, was elected Warden of Bruce County for 1976 at County Council Session held in Walkerton on January 19.

This marks Reeve Lamont's first year as Warden but his sixth year as Reeve. Mr. Lamont said he has always had an interest in local affairs. He was elected to the Saugeen Township Council in 1969 and served for two years.

Politics runs in Mr. Lamont's family. His father, the late Donald M. Lamont, was active in county politics serving from 1951-1956 and from 1959-60. He was elected Warden of Bruce County in 1956.

The Lamont family has occupied the same farm since 1853 when it was carved out of the wilderness. Alex Lamont represents the fifth generation to live on the land which makes up Doncrest Farms. The sixth generation are his three sons, Robert, Gary and Wayne, and a daughter, now Mrs. Frank Eagleson.

Mr. Lamont takes a skeptical view of the idea of restructuring that county government. He feels it will cost more than the program would be worth the county. He mentioned an \$82,000 study recently completed on the idea and said meetings were planned for the coming year to discuss the proposals.

Warden Lamont expressed the wish that the meetings could be open to the public because he does not feel the Reeve should have the sole say in something as important as the restructuring of the county government.

When the South Bruce County Official Plan is completed in the next year, the decision will be known but Mr. Lamont says he cannot predict the outcome.

Warden Lamont stated the Saugeen Township Council was against the merging of urban and rural areas. The costs of maintaining roads and services would be too much under the proposed system. Mr. Lamont gave as an example the fact that in the last two weeks it was all the township could do to keep the roads open due to heavy snow fall. He said the job would be next to impossible with the burden of clearing snow from the streets of an extra municipality.

People should not feel that Alex Lamont is against change or growth. He favours a diversification of industry in the area but he would like to see the lid put on fast development. He pointed out the results of rapid development in which makes water systems and sewage plants too small before their usefulness is really outmoded. It was also pointed out that the school systems suffer from overcrowding causing students to have to attend classes in portable classrooms.

"Alex" Lamont makes it!

Saugeen reeve wins Bruce Wardenship race

Reeve Alex Lamont of Saugeen Township was elected Warden of Bruce County for 1976 at County Council session held in Walkerton, Monday night, January 19th.

In his eighth year in Municipal politics, Alex has served a two-year term as Councillor, and is currently in his 6th year as Reeve of the Township.

On County Council Mr. Lamont has seen service on the Agricultural Committee; the Agricultural and Finance Committee and Personnel.

A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Lamont, he would appear to be following in the footsteps of his father (Dan), one of the area's most prominent political figures in the Township scene in earlier years, and also serving as Warden of Bruce in 1965.

The Lamont family have made their home at Doncrest Farms, 2nd of Saugeen since the Township was first opened up for habitation.

Mr. Lamont is married to Wilda (McAngus) and they have a family of one daughter, Doris, Mrs. Frank Eagleson and three sons, Wayne, Robert and Gary.

The family are members of Tolmie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Port Elgin.

As a younger man, Alex was active in Junior Farmer organizations, but has devoted his time and talents to serving the Township of late.

He faces a busy year - in addition to Township affairs, the International Plowing Match is upcoming this fall, and the new addition to the Bruce County Museum is slated to open later in 1976.

Warden Lamont is the fifth Reeve from Saugeen Township to hold this position. Others were - John Pierson, 1888; Pat Cummings, 1894; Alex McCannel, 1915; Donald M. Lamont, 1965.



Mr. Lamont is looking forward to a good tourist season this year and saw the opening of the MacGregor Point Provincial Park as a good thing for the tourist industry.

Mr. Lamont also mentioned the International Ploughing Mat-

ches to be held in Bruce County for the first time. The matches will be held two miles west of Walkerton during the last week of September.



"It took a lot of years to accumulate all of these things, and they will be gone in a couple of hours," commented Carl Gingrich as he sat on his porch during the auction sale that featured many of his possessions. Mr. Gingrich explained that he was clearing most of the old things so that his granddaughter and her husband, Linda and Ed Cole, would be able to take over the running of the place. Cedar Cottage has been Mr. Gingrich's home for 47 years, and he is looking forward to staying on with his granddaughter and her family. The location is familiar to many summer visitors who used to go and get bottles of good well water that is still used by the family.