

SBVI-4

Lieutenant Governor charms all in visit to area

Opens Legion exhibit at museum

The Royal Canadian Legion's 60th anniversary exhibit at the Bruce County Museum in Southampton received very special treatment last Thursday evening when Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, Lincoln Alexander, made an official visit.

The Lieutenant Governor's visit was to officially open the exhibit, but he also took time to visit both the Port Elgin and Southampton Legion branches as well as mingle with the large crowd present at the museum.

The very personable Lieutenant Governor was at ease when talking with the many Legionaires from the district who attended the festivities and seemed particularly pleased when chatting with some younger students from G.C. Huston Public School.

A foray into the waiting handshakes of members of the G.C. Huston choir and the fielding of questions about his 'job' brought obvious delight to the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor.

Being a veteran himself (a corporal in the Air Force during the Second World War), Mr. Alexander showed sincere interest in greeting and listening to veterans representing Legion branches in Southampton, Port Elgin, Paisley, Chesley, Wiarton, Shallow Lake, Owen Sound, Hepworth, Chatsworth, and Lion's Head.

"I can think of no better place than being here with you", began Mr. Alexander in a brief statement before an official ribbon cutting ceremony at the museum. "I am so happy to see such co-operation amongst the many Legion branches taking part in this very meaningful exhibit. It is indeed moving to see the Legion branches working together, and their efforts have created a touching display. I am honoured and delighted to have the pleasure of bringing the Queen's greetings to all of you. Congratulations to all who have worked on this exhibit."

In a brief statement later at a wine and cheese gathering in the Southampton Legion, the Lieutenant Governor again expressed his delight at seeing the Legion's work in remembering their history. "This exhibit is very significant, as is the co-operation shown by 13 Legion branches in putting their hands together and getting a job done."

"I am delighted to be here," he continued, "and I am impressed with the warm reception I've received. I am also very impressed with what I have seen of Bruce County and its citizens. This will be a memorable event for me. I am very

delighted to see so many children here. They know what it's all about!"

Claus Breede, past curator of the Bruce County Museum and a leading force in bringing the Lieutenant Governor to Bruce County, also spoke briefly at the official museum ceremony. "I must thank the museum staff and the Legions for a most commendable job on the anniversary exhibit. The idea was born in the basement of Branch 340 (Port Elgin), by Robert Pawley (a past commander of the 340 Air Cadet squadron) and I. An original idea of a display case became 4,000 square feet of memories. I am grateful for the Lieutenant Governor's response to our request that he open this exhibit."

Southampton mayor, Art Knechtel, brought greetings from the town. "It is a great honour and privilege to have you (Mr. Alexander) here. We have been excited about your visit for a while now."

Knechtel took the opportunity to invite the Lieutenant Governor back to Southampton in the summertime, "when things get heavy and the smog gets thick, come back to God's country."

Gordon Perrott, chairman of the museum, also expressed greetings, as well as noting the display was a great way for people to help the Legion celebrate its 60th anniversary.

Local Legion presidents, Jack Frost in Port Elgin, and Bob Greason in Southampton, later expressed their pleasure in the Lieutenant Governor taking time from his busy schedule to visit the area. They also felt his visit will add esteem to the local branches.

Mr. Alexander dined as guest of the Port Elgin Legion before attending the ceremonies at the museum.

The Lieutenant Governor and his entourage flew to Wiarton, where he was greeted by Wiarton Mayor Harold Silk and local Legion officials. He was then driven to Port Elgin-Southampton. He returned to Wiarton later that evening for the return trip to Toronto.

The Legion exhibit, entitled Passing the Torch, is a collection of memorabilia depicting Canada's 'contribution to freedom' in WW1, WW2, and the Korean conflict. Museum curator Barb Ribey explained the exhibit is made up of a cross-section of military memorabilia and representative materials of the Legion's branch work in the community.

The exhibit will remain at the Southampton branch of the Bruce County Museum until the summer. *Nov 195*



Robert and Connie Pawley, of Port Elgin, (both active in the Air Cadet movement in Port Elgin) greet Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander.



Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander chats with Bruce County Museum curator Barb Ribey and former curator Claus Breede.