

# 'Aunt Liz' gives boys new interest in Canadian history

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Arriving at the front steps of Queen's Park, the boys then accompanied their aunt and shook hands with Ontario's Premier Kathleen Wynne, Chief Justice George R. Strathy and House Speaker David Levac.

"We are really excited to go with her and very proud of her for making it," Cole said.

Currently residing in Toronto, Dowdeswell's career has taken her around the world.

She's worked at all levels of government, including Under Secretary General of the United Nations and as an assistant deputy minister at Environment Canada. Dowdeswell is also a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

"She tells a lot of stories to us about how she travels all around the world," Cole said. "She tells us about how she was dancing with Nelson Mandela, and other cool stories."

Yet, Cole and Kyle say, their aunt always makes time for her family.

"She always finds time to give us a call, or remembers our birthday, even when she's travelling around the world," Kyle said. "She's just always trying to find time for not only us, but



At left, brothers Kyle (left) and Cole Patton show pins given to them by David Onley, the outgoing Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Tuesday. At right, the youths during the official swearing-in ceremony of their aunt Elizabeth Dowdeswell as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Tuesday. | photos by Eric Riehl - Oakville Beaver (Follow on Twitter @halton\_photog or facebook.com/HaltonPhotog)



the rest of our (15) cousins."

Last week, the boys travelled to Toronto with their parents for a rehearsal of the ceremony and had a chance to meet with Onley.

"He's a really nice man," Cole said. "He tells a lot of funny jokes."

Onley presented the brothers with a pin of the Lieutenant Governor's coat-of-arms they wore Tuesday alongside their Oakville Rangers pins; both boys

are members of the local hockey team.

Kyle said he studied Canadian history last year in Grade 7 at St. John Elementary School, and had the chance to tour the Legislature.

Knowing his aunt is now part of history makes it all the more interesting.

"Now, I know my Aunt Liz is going to be one of those people whose picture they're going to have hanging

up on the wall (in Queen's Park)," he said.

Cole, who just started Grade 6 at St. John's, said he "can't wait" to dive into his history studies.

"I'm just learning about the Canadian government this year and I'm really interested now that my aunt is the Lieutenant Governor," he said.

More reason, said Cole and Kyle's parents, why their aunt wanted the

boys to be front-and-centre when she was appointed the Queen's representative in the Province.

"One of the things that swayed her toward choosing them was because she thought they would take the most from it," said mom Linda Patton.

For more on Cole and Kyle's experience and exclusive photos from the event, visit [www.oakvillebeaver.com](http://www.oakvillebeaver.com).

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