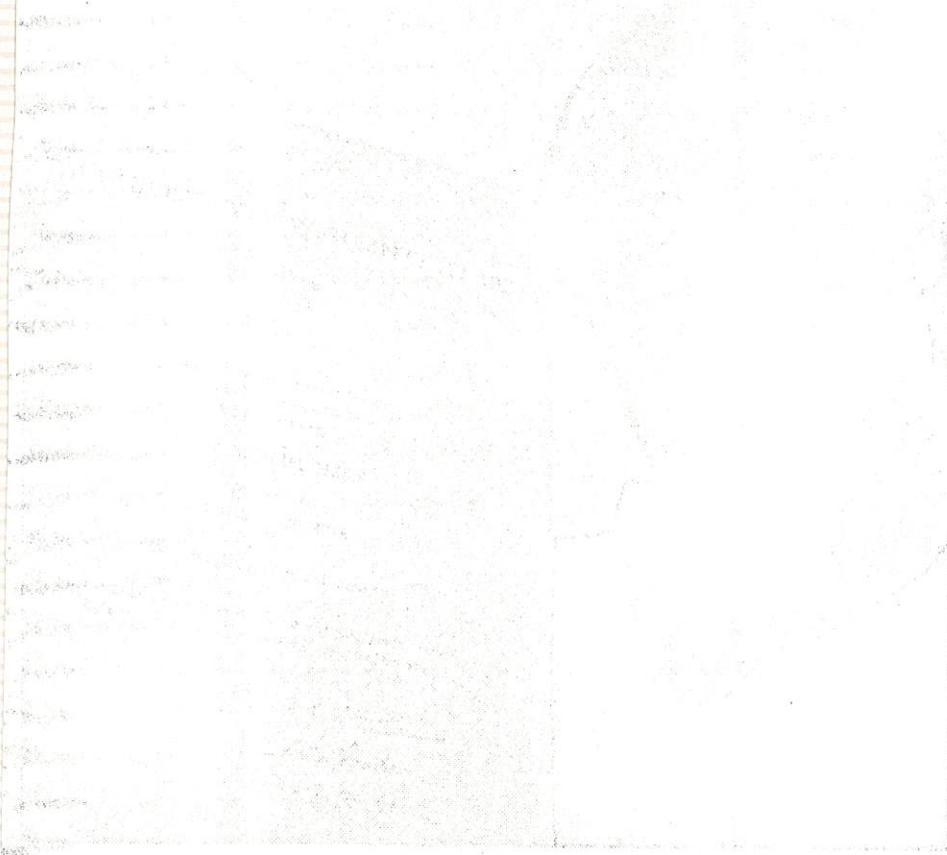


# Controller's wish comes true

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London controller Mike Ferris shows off the bachelor of arts degree he received from the University of Western Ontario's social science faculty Tuesday during the annual spring convocation.

For Con. Mike Ferris it was a wish come true as he received his arts degree from the University of Western Ontario Tuesday.

Ferris began taking the 15 courses necessary to complete the degree in 1974. Since then his daily routine has been marked by long evenings of study and weekends spent locked away in his den while he read and wrote about politics and geography.

For Ferris it has been worthwhile. "I always wished to go back to school."

He left high school after Grade 12 expecting to join the RCMP, but a back injury prevented that.

He said the first two credits were difficult because he had to "get back into reading and writing papers for professors." But after the first hurdle he began to enjoy it.

Ferris said he selected courses such as public administration, management and planning to help him with his job as controller.

Ferris said he hopes to get his honors degree and possibly his masters. "I hope to keep working at it, but at a slower pace," he said. He expects to begin his honors program in September.

As for this summer, Ferris said he intends to devote a little more time to his family. They haven't had a vacation in four years.

Ferris said his degree isn't a stepping stone to higher politics. "I'm a firm believer that the local level is where the action is."