



By Morris Lamont of The Free Press
 At 76, Dorothy Brown of London is discovering you're never too old to do anything, including being a frosh at UWO.

Granny a grad?

76-year-old frosh hits books at UWO

By Denise Lanouette
 of The Free Press

Dorothy Brown is a spry woman with twinkling eyes and a smile a foot wide.

And, unlike most of her contemporaries at the McCormick Home in London, the 76-year-old grandmother has specific plans for the year 1997.

If all goes well, she'll be attending the graduation exercises at the University of Western Ontario — as a graduate.

Brown registered for a first-year course in sociology at Western this week. It takes 15 credits to get a bachelor's degree and at the rate of one course a year, that would place her in the graduating class of '97, at the ripe old age of 91.

It's an awesome thought, but Brown, a former teacher, is taking it one step, or rather one course, at a time.

"I'll just have to wait and see," she said in an interview Wednesday.

"I want to get my degree. I won't be going on roller skates, that's for sure."

Brown attended the London Normal School on Elmwood Avenue in the old days before teachers' colleges were established. She admits it's been a long time since she has

seen the inside of a classroom, especially as a student.

A widow with five grandchildren, Brown has lived in London all her life except for 11 years spent teaching in Melbourne, Kingston and Shebeshegon near Parry Sound.

She decided to go back to school last spring for "something to do," and after consulting with staff at Western decided to enrol in an introductory sociology class. Because she's a senior citizen, the tuition is waived. She plans to commute to the university from the Victoria Street seniors' home by bus, like a regular student.

She expects the road ahead will be long and difficult because she has been away from classes for so long. She took a special course for returning students at Western this summer to brush up on her studying skills. She also decided to limit her work load to one course. "After so many years of not studying, I find it plenty. I'm working hard at it. I'm doing a chapter or two at a time."

Classes start Monday and Brown admits she's more than a little nervous about having classmates younger than her own grandchildren.

"I hope they accept me. I feel as if I just don't know anything compared to these youngsters."

"If I get through one course, I'm going to do well."