

Graduation just completed

Ingersoll residents become students

By HEATHER BUCHANAN

It is possible more mature adults are using part-time study as a way to pursue their post-secondary school education.

Several Ingersoll area people recently received their degrees after several years of taking extension courses through Woodstock and Tillsonburg centres.

For retired supply teacher, Dorothy Way, courses offered

through the centres allowed her achieve a Bachelor of Arts degree in social sciences. The grandmother of 10 waited until 1967 before beginning the night school courses.

"After I got married and had six children pursuing a university education was the farthest thing from my mind," said Way, who supply taught for 17 years. The decision to start taking courses was made after her youngest child started school; she still had four children at home.

While her family's initial reaction

was "why do you want to do that," they were very supportive of her decision. Going back to school was a way to keep her mind active. Being in the house all day with no one to talk to was boring, she said, adding attending classes gave her a chance to hear other people's view.

She admitted there were difficulties in returning to school. Changes in attitudes towards educational techniques seemed hard at first.

"When I went to school they just threw everything at you. And you didn't contribute, just tried to soak everything up and feed it back to them on the exam," she said. "Now you get a chance to say what you think and that was hard to get used to."

With her degree under her belt, Way has considered auditing additional courses in coming years. Individuals, who audit programs, are not required to write the exam. Way and her husband, Currie, from RR 5 Ingersoll have lived in the area most of their lives. She is still active in 4-H and the local Women's Institute.

For Noreen Smith, the social contact with other people has been very

important during her past 11 years taking university courses. She also recently graduated with Bachelor of Art.

She began taking courses with her daughter in 1978. After her marriage broke down a few years later she felt compelled to complete her university education.

"Sometimes I wondered why I was doing it. But it helped me over a tough time in my life," said Smith, who recently quit her job at Alexandra Hospital. A nurse at the Ingersoll hospital for 23 years, she has moved to Northern Ontario to be closer to her children.

Smith describes herself as a person who always has to be learning. Even while taking the university course she continued to take upgrading nursing program.

She has been a charter member of Woodstock Telecare. The program has been in existence for 13 years. As a form of relaxation she is learning to play golf.

Other Ingersoll residents who received degrees this past June were George Hammond and Elaine Campbell.



Dorothy Way, RR 5 Ingersoll, took 13 years to achieving her Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Western Ontario. She received her certificate this past June. Way is one of a growing number of adult students pursuing a post-secondary school education. (Staff photo)