



Isabel gets her BA after 12 years' study

By Marion Zych
London Free Press

Isabel Campbell's part-time studies took her to three different universities and 12 years to complete, but on Tuesday she received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Western Ontario.

On hand to wish her well were her two daughters, husband Bill, and her 90-year-old mother, who travelled from Wadena, Sask.

Campbell, 60, started her studies in 1976, at McMaster University in Hamilton and spent a year there before transferring to the University of Western Ontario because her husband had been transferred to London.

Campbell spent three years in London which she describes as "my favorite city in Ontario."

In 1980, her husband was transferred again, this time to Toronto and she took some courses at the University of Toronto, but spent the rest of the time taking correspondence courses through Western.

She returned to London last winter to write her final exams. "I'm proud that I've attended three of the main think tanks in Ontario," she said.

In the fall, Campbell plans to take courses in music and art at the University of Toronto.

"I'd also like to do something on a volunteer basis. It's a privilege to attend a university, I feel it's only right that you give something back."

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ISABEL CAMPBELL: at three universities

It took grandmother 38 years but she finally got her degree

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By Wendy McCann
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Western's autumn convocation had a special meaning for Armintha Belbeck, a 57-year-old grandmother of four.

The Owen Sound elementary school teacher received her bachelor of arts degree, 38 years after she set out to earn it.

Belbeck was a freshman in 1950 at Waterloo College, a former Western affiliate. The year was a gift from her parents, who promised each of their four children they'd pay one year's tuition. Belbeck couldn't afford to continue.

It was 1977 before she resumed her studies through extension courses in Owen Sound. She finished this summer.

"It sounds like a long time," Belbeck said Friday, the final day of convocation. "But that time has

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from her pupils' point of view.

"As a student, I found myself nervous if I had to get up and present something in front of the class. When I was teaching speech to my grade fours, I had one little girl who just cried when she had to stand before the class. I was really able to sympathize with her. I knew exactly how she felt."

On Friday, Belbeck was one of 587 graduates in the faculties of arts and social science at Alumni Hall, where Ontario Lieutenant-Governor Lincoln Alexander received an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Alexander was recognized for public service during a career as a lawyer, a member of Parliament and chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board in Ontario.

gone by quickly."

As a student, Belbeck has seen the conservatism of the '50s give way to today's freer political expression.

"In the last couple of subjects, I met with Marxist teaching," she said. "A professor actually admitted he was a Marxist. Back then you didn't openly talk about things like that. Communism was very hushed."

Earning a degree has given Belbeck a chance to see the classroom