Return to school a success
Diplomas prove that learnin' never ends

Edward Wilson, 50, thought it would be fun to join his staff when they voluntarily enrolled in school last fall.

And Joseph Partington, 58, went back to school three years ago because he was bored with retirement.

Both graduated Friday from Fanshawe College.

Wilson, manager of a St. Thomas ambulance service, received his certificate for completing Fanshawe College's ambulance and emergency care course.

He said a love of education was his primary reason for joining 17 staff members as they updated their knowledge of the field. He worked full-time at his job at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital and attended night school.

This was the first formal ambulance training for Wilson who started his job 25 years ago by driving an ambulance. He has been manager six years.

Because of his love of learning, he has previously enrolled in three certificate courses in different fields.

But he's had enough of the books for now and must get back to work "to catch up with my paperwork." Wilson said he has no idea when he'll return to school.
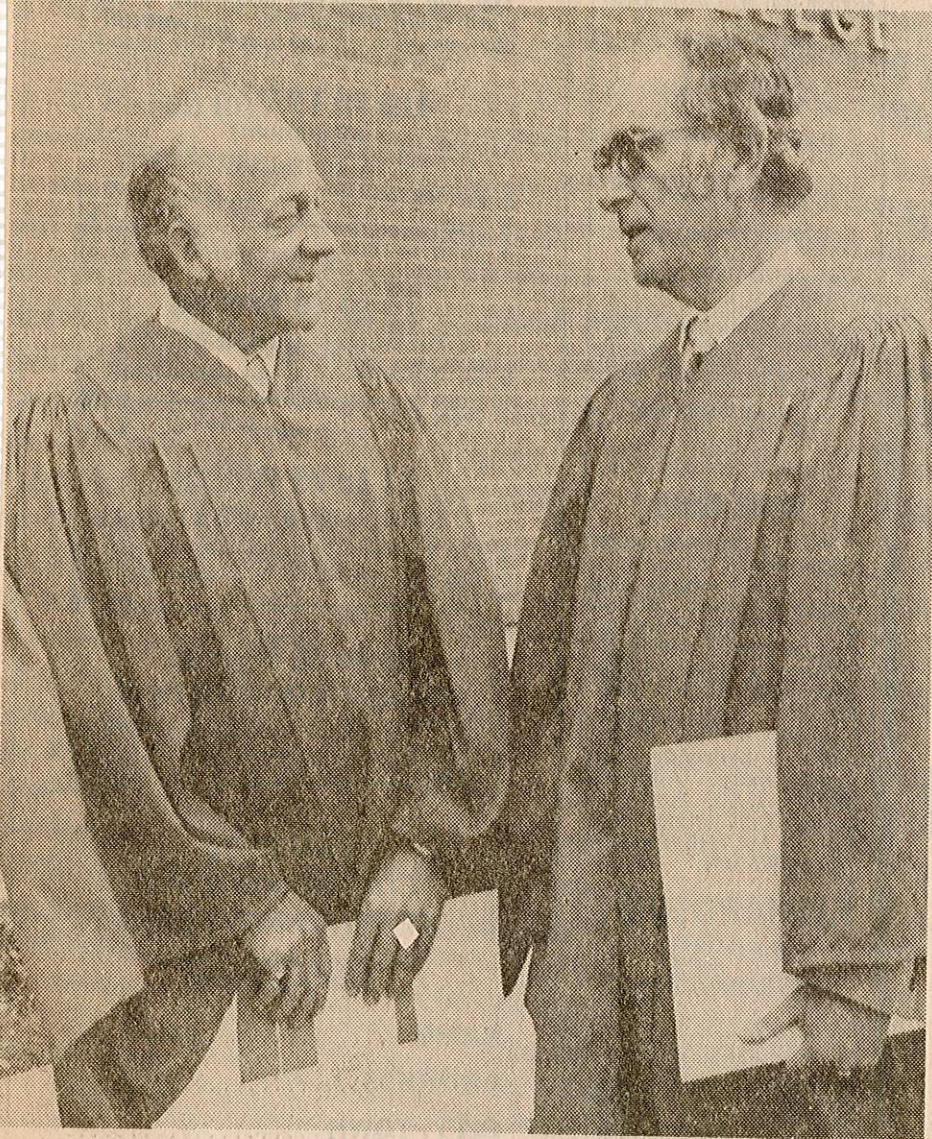
Partington turned his boredom into a graduation diploma from Fanshawe's design management program.

After one year of retirement from promotion work, he decided to go back to school because, "I was once a commercial interior designer and I wanted to see how they're teaching it now."

The students graduating from this program today are "more knowledgeable and more intelligent than we were," he said.

"And I consider it a compliment that the students accepted me as their equal."

Partington began teaching part-time in the department in August and plans to continue in the fall.

Edward Wilson, left, and Joseph Partington compare notes on their return to school after receiving graduation certificates at Fanshawe College convocation Friday.