

Boyce, Beverly

Intelligencer, Oct 31, 1983

Intel Oct 31/83 Bev-Boyce-B

This Ontario scholar did it the hard way

By HENRY BURY
Staff Reporter

Bev Boyce proved something not only to herself but to all adults who return to school—a high school diploma is certainly attainable.

When the 47-year-old Boyce picked up her Grade 13 honor graduation diploma in Belleville Collegiate Institute's convocation ceremony Friday night, it culminated four years of studies, all after a 26-year-absence from school.

Boyce was also one of BCI's 12 Ontario Scholarship recipients, but that, she said Saturday, "is just topping on the cake." She's the first adult student in BCI to be named an Ontario Scholar.

"I returned to school because I want to prove to myself that it could be done by an adult...It can be done now that we have taken the stepping

stone and there's no reason for other adults to shy away from coming back to school," Boyce said.

"How did I feel Friday night? It's hard to put into words. Let's just say, Hey, I've done it."

Boyce is among the growing number of adults returning to high school to complete graduation requirements. When she enrolled in BCI in 1979, she was one of only a handful of adults. There are now more than 200 adults taking BCI courses.

Boyce was six credits short of her Grade 13 diploma. Over the next four years, she took two hour-long credit courses every morning with regular students, in addition to homework.

"I was six credits short but the reason I took only two a year is that with a family of six and a part-time job in a bookstore, that's all I could handle," she said.

"I wanted to upgrade myself and out of it, you get self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment...I never felt out of place. It was an exciting experience. It was more than fun and I am so happy that I was able to get something out of it that I want others to share the experience that I had," Boyce said.

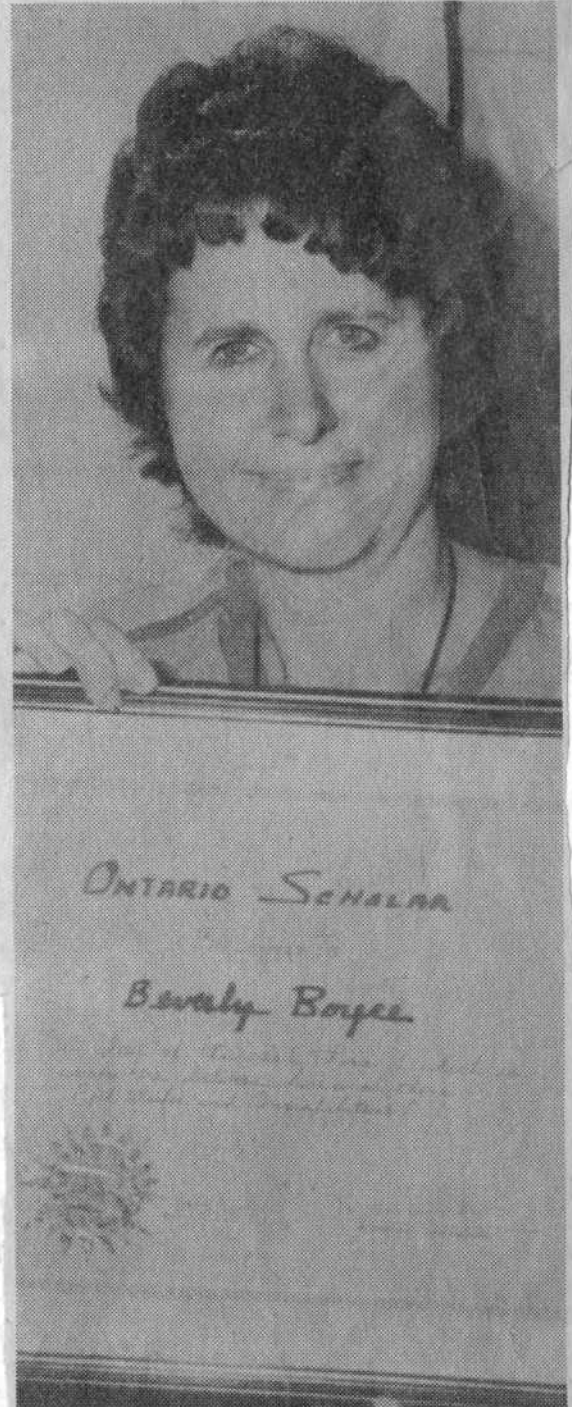
The Grade 13 diploma, she said, "is just a stepping stone."

"My goal is to get a university degree, but at my age, will I ever make it?"

She needs 15 credits and is planning on taking at least one credit each year, in addition to some summer studies.

She already has a start on that goal. Boyce is now taking a history course from Queen's University in Loyalist College in the evenings.

"The learning process is so valuable that I just want to continue," Boyce said.



BEV BOYCE WITH DIPLOMA