

Boyce, Bev

# A continuing process

By Jennifer Bell

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The Intelligencer

Bev Boyce is a firm believer in lifelong learning.

At 63, Boyce has just graduated from Laurentian University in Sudbury with a Bachelor of Arts in religious studies — after 17 years of studying by correspondence.

A lifelong resident of Belleville, Boyce — married to former teacher, historian and city councillor Gerry — hopes her recent achievement “will encourage others to go back to school, or get that diploma or degree they’ve always wanted.”

Boyce’s educational foray began in 1979, when she returned to high school as a mature student to get her diploma.

Since then, not a year has gone by that Boyce hasn’t taken a course of some kind to enrich her learning experience.

“I love reading, and researching things that are of interest to me,” said Boyce.

For the last 17 years, Boyce has worked part-time at Greenley’s bookstore, which has been a great resource during her studies.

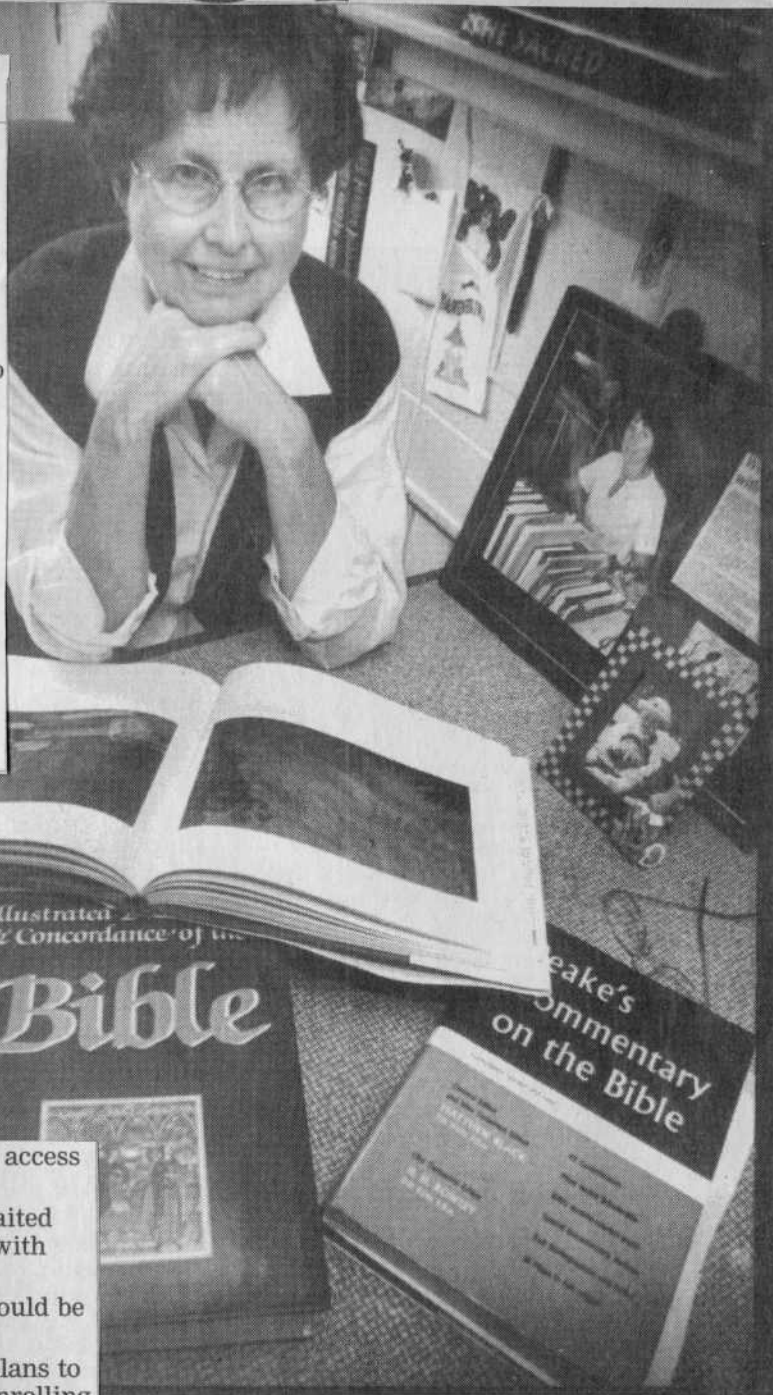


Photo by Crombie McNeill

Bev Boyce

“It’s been a lending library, and I’ve been able to access a lot of great material for essays.”

And even though she’s now received her long-awaited degree from Laurentian, Boyce says she’s not done with education.

“I’d like to take French now, because I think it would be helpful in the future.”

Armed with her B.A. in religious studies, Boyce plans to volunteer in the palliative care field this fall, after enrolling in a course designed around caring for the terminally ill.

“I think that working in palliative care requires a spiritual background, and my work in religious and native studies has helped prepare me for that.”

Boyce credits husband Gerry and her children Duncan, Egerton, Thomas and Susie with “the tremendous support over the years that has allowed me to devote so much time to my education.”

Boyce spent an average of four hours each day studying and researching, and said she was fortunate to have “not only Gerry as a resource, but many of his colleagues.

“Living with a teacher was certainly a big help,” she grinned.