



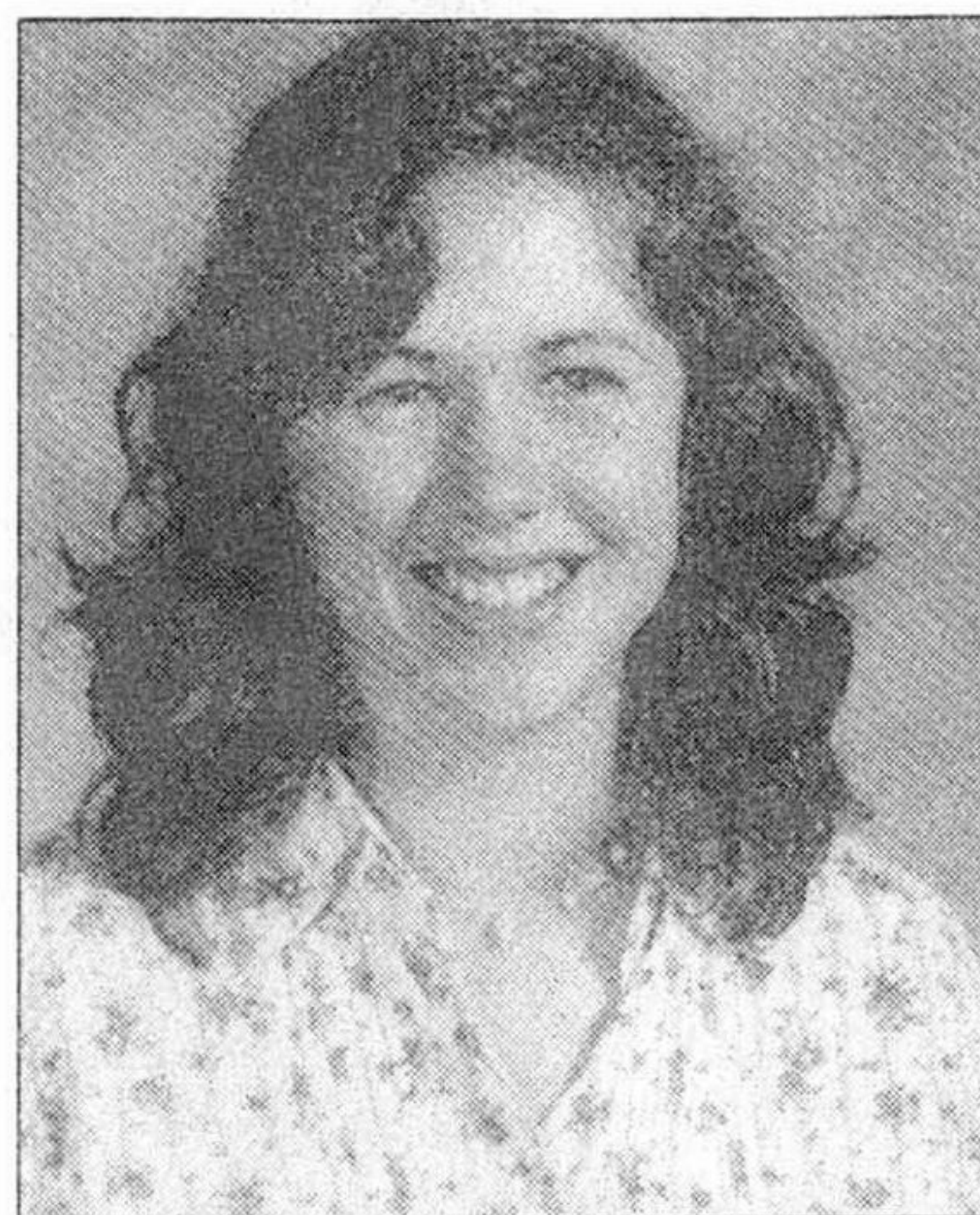
4-H BIRTHDAY: To celebrate 90 years of 4-H in Ontario, the Oxford 4-H association held an open house at the Woodstock office of Gencor. Members past and present had a chance to travel down memory lane by viewing photos and newspaper clippings of the years gone past. Part of Oxford history has gone missing, so the committee didn't know when 4-H actually started in the county. All three politicians commented that membership in 4-H helps the youth of today become the leaders for the future. In the cake cutting ceremony, back row, Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP, Dave MacKenzie, Oxford MP, David Grieve Chairperson of Oxford 4-H Association and Don Woolcott Oxford County Warden. Front row: 4-H members Anne Matheson, Diane Aarts, Angela Koot, Melanie Koot and Ellen Hargreaves. (Laura Green photo)

4-H members explore citizenship issues

Canada's democracy and standard of living are revered around the world. But what does it mean to be a Canadian citizen? That's the question 4-H members from across Canada were asking themselves as they gathered in Ottawa April 8 to 14 to explore the many opportunities, rights and freedoms that Canadian citizenship offers in the 34th annual National 4-H Citizenship Seminar.

Fifty-four delegates attended the conference, including Amanda Green from Embro.

The theme of this year's conference, *Borders and Opportunities*, focused on the diverse cultural make-up of Canada's population and emerging issues which will impact on Canada beyond the year 2005. Delegates learned about Canada's democratic traditions by touring Parliament Hill and the Supreme Court, viewing Question Period in action and joining MPs from their home ridings for a luncheon. A highlight of the conference saw 4-H delegates attend a



Amanda Green

Citizenship Court ceremony where they re-affirmed their Canadian citizenship side-by-side with individuals being sworn in as new Canadians.

Delegates learned about the political process, including walking through 'a day in the life of an MP,'

and participated in a mock parliamentary session. Another highlight of the week included a tour of the Central Experimental Farm and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada headquarters. The seminar culminated with delegates participating in a presentation titled, "What Citizenship Means to Me."

Major sponsors of the 2005 conference included Department of Canadian Heritage, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, The Masonic Foundation of Ontario, CIBC, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Canadian See Growers' Association, Glenview Travel, Saskatchewan 4-H Council, SeCan Association, Manitoba 4-H Council and Ontario Agricultural College.

Particular note goes to the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, whose support under the Delegate Sponsorship Program made it possible for Amanda Green to attend this year's National 4-H Citizenship Seminar.