



A CHANGE in command occurred Monday at the Oxford County Board of Education as former chairman Ron Doney passed

the gavel to Helen Dickson, the new chairman. (Staff photo by Bill Scriven)

Dec. 1st 1980

Dickson elected board chairman

By BILL SCRIVEN

Sentinel-Review staff writer
The Oxford County Board of Education will be under the watchful scrutiny of Helen Dickson during its next term.

Mrs. Dickson, representing Norwich Township for the past two terms, was nominated as the board's chairman in its inaugural meeting Monday night.

"It is with humility I accept this honor," said Mrs. Dickson, "and I feel particularly humble when I think of those who have served this office before me."

Mrs. Dickson won the chairman's seat by acclamation. She said afterwards she's looking forward to her new role and hopes to fulfill the position to the best of her ability.

She sees no major changes in the operation of the school system in the year ahead, mainly as the result of government restrictions set down by the provincial government, but Mrs. Dickson stressed the Oxford County Board of Education is already a well-

rounded system.

EXPERIENCE

Ron Doney, who represented East Zorra Tavistock, stepped down as board chairman. He described his term as chairman as a great learning and growing experience "that will benefit me the rest of my life."

He said he was encouraged by the attendance at school programs and at high school commencement exercises, but was concerned with the attitude of parents.

"The parental concerns are there," he explained, "but most parents approach us with a negative attitude which in the end is counter-productive."

The major highlights of Doney's tenure as chairman included: the continuing operation of Norwich District High School; the twinning of Sweaburg Public School with East Oxford County School; the increase in micro-computers in secondary schools (now at 28 computers); improvement of the Oxford County industrial training program; the special

education program being extended, with facilities to accommodate the mentally handicapped; and a site chosen for a school in South-West Oxford Township.

Doney doesn't see any dramatic changes in education operations in the county in the next year, "but the emphasis will remain to bring out good basic students, which I think we've been achieving."

For the position of vice-chairman of the board, Dr. Pat Brown (Woodstock) and Gow Harvey (Blanford-Blenheim) were nominated with Harvey being elected for the chair.

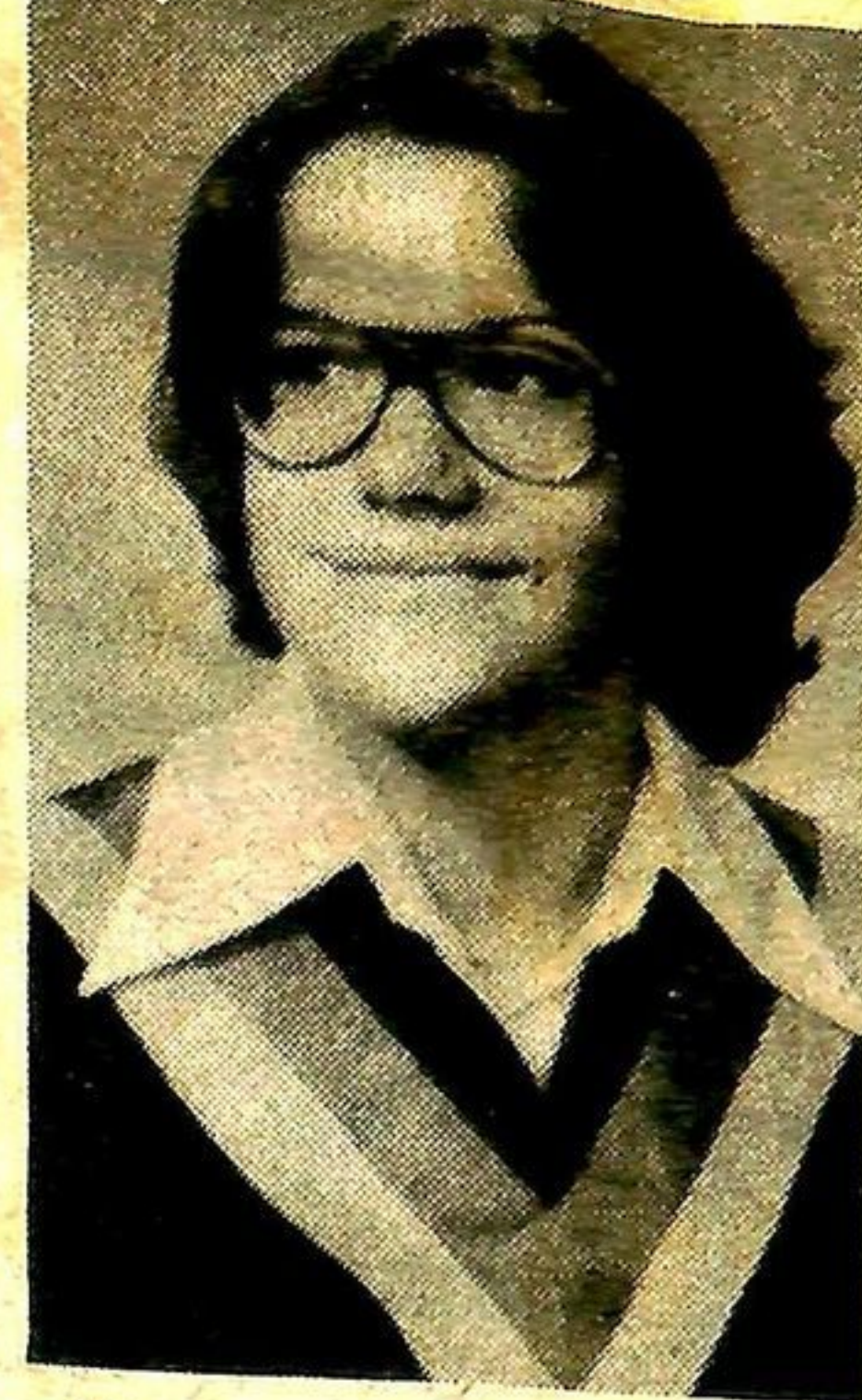
Dr. Brown retained her seat as Oxford County representative to the Ontario Public School Trustees Association (OPSTA).

Wilma Boughtflower (Woodstock) will be Dr. Brown's back-up as OPSTA representative.

The first meeting of the new board of education will take place on Dec. 8 when Mrs. Dickson will present her inaugural speech.



Miss **Kathryn M. Dickson**, daughter of Les and Helen Dickson of RR 2, Burgessville, recently graduated from the University of Guelph with a BSc. in Honours Specialized Zoology. Kathy is a former student of NDHS and is presently employed by the Zoology Department, University of Guelph.



Mary Jane Orth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Orth, of RR 1, Burgessville, Ontario, recently graduated from Centralia College of Agricultural Technology in the Food Service Management program. Mary Jane is presently working as a Food Service Supervisor at the Brantford General Hospital. *1980*

GRADUATE



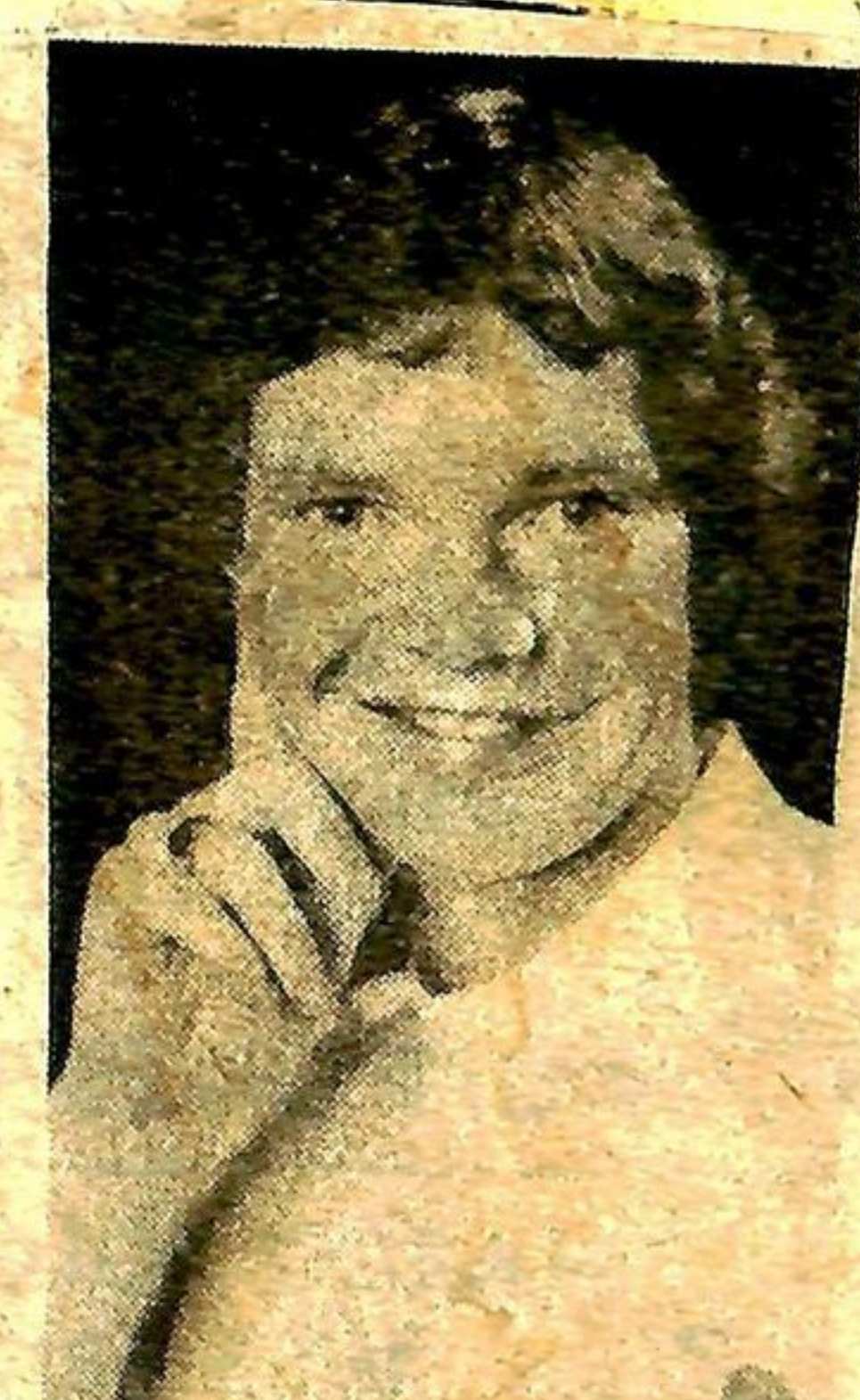
VALERIE ROCKETT recently graduated from the nursing assistant program at Fanshawe College, St. Thomas Campus. She has accepted a position at the Oxford Regional Centre. Valerie is the daughter of Chuck and Ella Rockett of Burgessville.



ELISABETH JANE RAPLEY, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rapley of Burgessville, recently graduated from Fanshawe College's Diploma Nursing program, Woodstock campus. Elisabeth is a graduate of Norwich District High School, and has accepted a position at Woodstock General Hospital.



Schaafsma 1981
Tammy Schaafsma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schaafsma of Burgessville, has graduated from the Fanshawe College School of Nursing. Tammy is a graduate of College Avenue Secondary School.



Michael Edgeworth, son of Bob and Betty Edgeworth, Norwich, recently graduated from Regional School for nursing assistant, and has accepted a job at Brantford General Hospital. *Sept. 16/81 paper*