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Area residents part of trend in part-time university studies

One of the fastest growing areas of part-time student interest is distance education -- and area residents are part of it.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, distance education at Wilfrid Laurier University, located in Waterloo, has grown from 13 students in its first two classes to a cumulative enrolment of more than 7,000 part-time students.

In Wasaga Beach, three residents are enrolled in distance education courses offered by Laurier.

According to a recent survey of new, part-time students enrolled in the fall 1988 term, there are a number of advantages to studying at home.

Several of the 257 respondents to the two-page questionnaire cited convenience. "It's a wonderful way to complete your education, work and have your family all at the same time," one student wrote.

Others mentioned that they appreciated not having to travel

to campus and the flexibility of fitting a university education into their personal schedules.

This fall, the university will offer 31 distance education courses, including 27 video courses. For the first time, a Laurier course is being aired on TVOntario while others continue to be available on cable systems throughout Ontario. As well, videos can be obtained for home viewing for a deposit of \$45.

New courses this fall will include the history of the Second World War and French (suitable for individuals who have completed Grade 12 French).

Cliff Bilyea, director of part-time studies and continuing education at Laurier, says a video course offers an advantage over a print-only correspondence course. "It builds on the old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words."

As well as the visual material used in Telecollege courses, the university provides a resource binder with course notes, readings, reference material and assignments.

Laurier has just published a booklet entitled The Telecollege Story: A Decade in Distance Education and this booklet, along with copies of the Fall/Winter calendar and other part-time studies literature, is available at the Wasaga Beach public library.

Laurier also offers a toll-free information number at 1-800-265-8866 ext . 4447.