Carolyn Cameron
President, Elgin District #41 RTO/ERO
2006-2007

Carolyn Cameron (nee Davis) was a graduate of St. Thomas Collegiate Institute and the London Teachers' College. She began her teaching career with the London Board of Education in September 1961 at Prince Charles Public School in a Grade 5 class where she taught for two years. She resigned at the end of that time because her daughter Beth (Elizabeth Ann) was born in August of that year and there was no such thing as maternity leave.

In January 1964, she resumed teaching in a Grade 5 class at Boyle Memorial School in London taking the place of another teacher who had to resign because she was expecting a child. She taught at Boyle Memorial until June 1967. During this time she taught various classes from Grades 3 to 5.

In September 1967 she was hired by the Dunwich-Dutton Public School Board to teach Physical Education Grades 1-8 3/4 time and Grade 6 1/4 time. She taught here until June 1969 as their son, Ken (Kenneth Allister) was born that following October. It was at this time that the Elgin County School Board was being formed and the Elgin rural schools and those in the city of St. Thomas were being amalgamated. It was a time of great change and Carolyn decided to apply for maternity leave as many of the larger centres were now granting such a thing. After a series of letters, she received one that basically said that if she would agree to stay home for a year, she would be guaranteed of a job the following September. This was the beginning of maternity leaves in Elgin County.

She returned to Dunwich Dutton Public School in September of 1970 where she taught Grades 5 and 6 and continued coaching school teams until June 1974. When the West Elgin Senior Elementary School opened in 1974, she applied and started there in September 1974. During her years at WESES, she taught Grades 6, 7, and 8 including English, History, Geography and Art on rotary. She remained at WESES until June of 1984 at which time she transferred to Aldborough PS where she taught Grades 5 and 6.

She was President of Elgin County Women Teachers' Federation with a half-time leave of absence from September 1990 to June 1992. She served a second term as President of this organization with full time release September 1995 to June 1996 (The Harris Years). This was a difficult time for teachers. She retired from teaching at the end of this term in June 1996.

During her teaching career, she took a number of Department of Education Courses in Art, Mathematics, Physical Education and Health, Social Studies and Language Arts. Like many other teachers of her era, she attended university part-time taking evening and summer courses. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a major in Social Sciences (History) in 1975. She later returned to Western to complete an Honours Degree in Social Science.

Also during her teaching career, she was privileged to join a number of Ontario teachers with the London Free Press and Abitibi Paper on two "Field Trips" to Thunder Bay and Newfoundland.