



Edna Whitcomb Honorary BA Degree

When Edna Whitcomb turned 18 in 1930, Greta Garbo and Bette Davis graced the silver screen, bread cost less than a dime, and the Great Depression was just beginning.

Whitcomb was ready to attend university, but says a post-secondary education just wasn't in the cards. "When I was young I was a smart enough kid, but I just didn't have enough money to go to university," she stated matter-of-factly.

Instead, she married, raised a family, and took on a variety of part-time jobs. When she retired in the 1980s, she heard about The Division of Continuing Education's 55 Plus Program. Finally, it was her chance to attend university. "Better late than never!" laughs Whitcomb, now 93. "And this time, there are no exams—you can just enjoy it."

Like Ida Margolis, who will also be honoured today, Whitcomb enjoys classes in world politics and has a special interest in film. "I've enjoyed all the classes I've taken," says Whitcomb. "Some I've taken more than once!"

Whitcomb is a strong advocate of lifelong learning, and encourages other seniors to participate in the 55 Plus Program and get involved in University life. "I tell them how I like it and that it's the way to go," says Whitcomb, who believes in the importance of staying active and engaged. "It gets you out, you learn something, and you meet other people. With all of those things, why wouldn't you attend?"

For her dedication to continuing education, The University of Winnipeg is pleased to present Edna Whitcomb with an Honorary Bachelor of Arts.