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NEWS RELEASE

For Carolyn Bowering it's been a season of "firsts". In May she became the first woman correctional officer at the Lethbridge Correctional Institution in Alberta, and in June she became the first graduate of the Cariboo College Corrections and Criminal Justice program to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal.

Happy in her new position and planning to continue studies toward a degree in Criminology, Mrs. Bowering credits College Instructor Ron Boucher and Canada Manpower Counsellor Cecil Buckley for channeling her interest in people and community work into a rewarding career.

"The program at Cariboo was a test of the depth of my commitment to helping people," she said at the Awards Banquet held at the College on June 13. "And it exposed me to the whole range of the justice system, from alternate schools through probation and parole as well as jails."

In addition to the Lieutenant Governor's medal, awarded for outstanding achievement in a one-year certificate program, Mrs. Bowering received a $200 Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation award.

In her nine-month course of study she ended each semester with work in the field, first at the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre and then at the MacDonald Alternate School for juveniles. She was hired by the Alberta authorities within three days of graduation from the College program in May.

Mrs. Bowering is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Payton Howe of Summerland. She was born and raised in Calgary, but later lived in the Okanagan. She held a variety of jobs in Ontario before returning to British Columbia and settling in Kamloops. For a while she worked as a homemaker, but sought a career with more community involvement. It was then that Buckley "challenged" her, she says with the Corrections and Criminal Justice program.

Her work includes general correctional officer duties, such as counselling, guard duty and escorting. She plans to enroll in academic courses at the University of Lethbridge in the fall.

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