

The Ellis Little Papers



Ellis Little, taken in Stratford in 1942

ELLIS LITTLE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

Waterloo Public Library

35 Albert Street, Waterloo

www.wpl.ca



Waterloo
Public
Library

Who was Ellis Little?

Ellis Little, a distinguished local historian, was born in Perth County in 1924. He studied at and graduated from the Stratford Teacher's College. Mr. Little worked full-time as a teacher, and raised his young family with wife Margaret, while earning two undergraduate degrees and a Master's Degree in Education at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto. The Littles moved to Waterloo in 1957.

Mr. Little taught history and geography at several local schools before becoming principal of Alexandra, St. Jacobs and Elizabeth Ziegler Public Schools.

Upon retirement, Mr. Little dedicated much of his time to researching the area's historical collections, reading non-fiction books and writing. Mr. Little was a 10-year volunteer member of the Municipal Heritage Committee (formerly LACAC), and served on the City of Waterloo's Heritage Advisory Committee, and the Waterloo Historical Society. He rightfully earned the title Mr. History.

Mr. Little had a long relationship with WPL. In conducting his research, he spent many hours over the years delving into WPL's local history collection. Mr. Little loved to share his findings and reference staff had many enjoyable, informative conversations with him while helping him with his research.

In 2003, members of LACAC asked the WPL Board to consider naming its local history room after Ellis Little given his work in preserving local heritage for the community. WPL enthusiastically supported the request and after consultation with the Little family, was pleased to honour Mr. Little and his civic contribution by formally naming the room, Ellis Little Local History Room.

In November 2003, Mr. Little's health was failing. Local History Librarian Janet Seally arranged a simple dedication ceremony with family and friends at his hospital bedside. It was a pleasure to share with him the library's plan to relocate and revitalize the Ellis Little Local History Room in 2004. He was immensely pleased.

Ellis Little died on April 4, 2004.

The grand opening of the Ellis Little Local History Room was in September 2004.

The event was a celebration of local history and "Mr. History", Ellis Little. One of the highlights of the opening was the unveiling of a portrait of Ellis Little by renowned artist, Peter Etril Snyder, which is pictured below.



Portrait of Ellis Little by Peter Etril Snyder

“Ellis Little was a wonderful, wonderful man and not just because of the history. He was a warm and generous person.”

Cathy Matyas, Chief Librarian,
Waterloo Public Library

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The most recent collection donated to Waterloo Public Library consists of Ellis Little's extensive notes, papers and historical works. Local History Librarian Janet Seally says, "These papers have already proven to be very useful. Ellis Little was a consummate researcher and pulled the various pieces of information together to form a whole picture. We are grateful to the family for donating



Ellis's papers to WPL, and know that they will form an important part of the collection." The Ellis Little Local History

Room is open to the public during regular library hours. Special services include research assistance, genealogical research services, birth, marriage and obituary articles, photographic reproductions and photocopying. There may be a fee involved for some specialized services.



What is in the Ellis Little Local History Room?

The Room contains books, clipping files on local businesses and people, genealogy materials, government records, historical atlases, journals, photographs, postcards, memorabilia, newspapers and more. There are also special collections from The Globe Furniture Company, Sunshine Waterloo, The Waterloo Board of Trade and David Bean.

The Ellis Little Local History Room is located in the Adult Department of the Main Library (35 Albert Street, Waterloo).

For more information visit www.wpl.ca



The Ellis Little Local History Room

Local History Donations

WPL gratefully accepts donated books and other materials for the local history collection.

Call Janet Seally, Local History Librarian at (519) 886-1310 ext. 126 or email jseally@wpl.ca

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday to Thursday

10:00 am to 9:00 pm

Friday and Saturday

10:00 am to 5:30 pm

Sunday (mid-Oct. to early May)

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

WPL wishes to acknowledge the financial support of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation.



MAIN LIBRARY

35 Albert Street
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5E2
(519) 886-1310

McCORMICK BRANCH

500 Parkside Drive
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5J4
(519) 885-1920

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