

Margaret Isobel Elliott – Remembrance

1) Early years – Toronto/Oakville/Montreal/Deep River:



Margaret's mother, Mabel Mary Wilson (née Armstrong), with her two daughters Margaret (right) and Ruth (centre):

Margaret was born in Toronto ON in 1925. Her mother was trained as a nurse, and the family had settled in Toronto in 1923, where Mabel worked at the Women's College Hospital. Her sister Ruth was born in 1929. After moves to Oakville ON, Dayton OH, and then Montreal, in connection with her father's war work, Margaret was in Grade 12 at the High School for Girls, adjacent to McGill University, when she was recruited in April of 1943 as a technician to join the NRC labs at the University of Montreal (cf. Section 2 below). There she met her future husband Lloyd George Elliott (a young physicist in the new NRC labs, the future Atomic Energy of Canada, at the University of Montreal), and they were married in July of 1943! In 1946 they moved to newly built Deep River with their young son George Arthur (born 1945), where they set up their new household at 12 Parkdale Ave. Their sons Bruce Edgar and Martin Lloyd were born in Deep River in 1947 and 1953. Margaret's husband Lloyd continued to work as a physicist at Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories, later becoming Director of Research.

Margaret's father, Arthur William Wilson, as a young man: He graduated in mechanical engineering at Michigan State University in 1911, and moved to Canada, where he met and married Mabel (née Armstrong) in 1923, and worked as a car dealer. Later he was involved in war work with the British Admiralty, which involved moving several times. Towards the end of World War II, Arthur, Mabel, and Ruth returned to Toronto, where Arthur changed fields and became a life insurance salesman. After a long illness, he died in 1958. Mabel was able to continue his insurance business.



Lloyd offering baby George a drink of water, on a walk with Ruth watching (Margaret taking the picture).



Family Christmas in 1957 with Lloyd, Margaret, Martin, George and Bruce – in their new house at 21 Beach Ave.

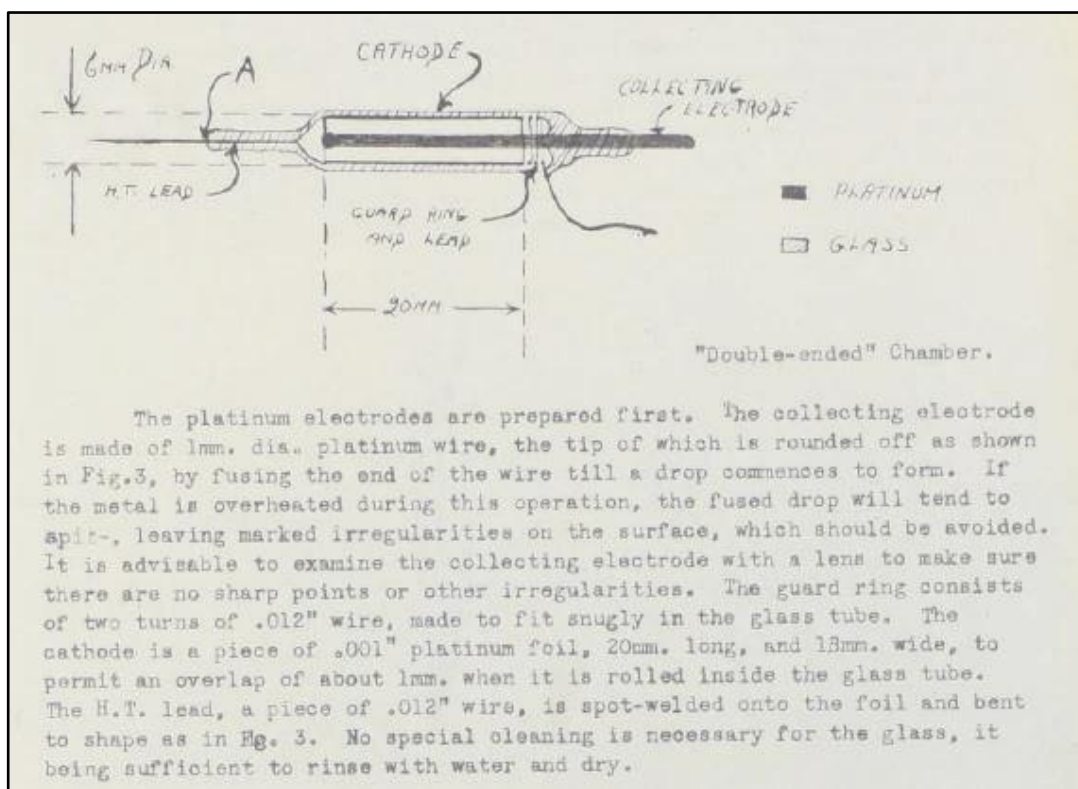
2) Montreal NRC Labs – Atomic Energy of Canada



March 22, 2014 (Email note from Margaret):

*"I found this photo in an album of pictures going back in time to when I was a teenager. Dr. George Laurence visited high schools in Montreal, looking for students with good academic records, who would be willing to quit grade 12 immediately, in **April of 1943**, and take a job with the newly established Atomic Energy of Canada, set up by the National Research Council at the University of Montreal. In 1946, the group of scientists and assistants who had gathered there, all moved to Deep River, the town established for employees at the newly Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories. "*
Margaret Elliott

Making cathode electrodes from glass became one of Margaret's specialties.



Other young women who were recruited along with Margaret in the Montreal Lab included:

Beryl Ward, Isabella Thomas (née Hannan) and Editha Beamish (née Seeley) and many more. Other technicians were Rex Bailey, and Jerry Sullivan (glass blowers who taught Margaret how to make glass electrodes and other lab items) and Don Robertson. All these people moved with their families to Deep River in 1946 and contributed greatly to town life in those early days.

3) Deep River Early Days:

- **Started up the first Girl Guide Company in Deep River:** Margaret had enjoyed being a Girl Guide as she grew up in Toronto and wanted to provide the same experience for children in Deep River. So, she became the First Captain in 1947, and later Commissioner in the 1950's! Margaret recruited other women in Deep River to be Guide Leaders, including Margaret Hurst, Carol Moody, Grace Steward, Dorothy Hawking, Sheila Fletcher, and many more.



Margaret's certificate as Captain of the Deep River Girl Guides Company in 1947.

- **Organized a Music Group in the mid-1970s:** Arden Okazaki (violinist, violist), Ruth McAlpin (cellist), Waltraud Dilling (recorder), and Margaret Elliott (recorder) were founding members of this group, who enjoyed playing both classical and folk music for flute, recorder, and violin. The Corelli Christmas Concerto was one of their favorites at Christmas time. The group grew to include more musicians, shown in the photo below.



More music group members: Margaret Elliott, Dorie Knowles, Alison Arthur, Marjory Walker, Marilyn Buyers, Ruth McAlpin, Elizabeth Hulbert, Ellen Craig, and Arden Okazaki.

Margaret often said that many (including herself) stopped playing by 2010, but they kept meeting just to chat and share photos, etc. One friend of Mother's, Susan Morris (a member of the Deep River Symphony Orchestra), played a Korean folk song, *Airang*, on alto recorder at Margaret's celebration of life at Deep River Community Church in February 2016.

4) University:

When Margaret's husband Lloyd Elliott died suddenly in November 1970, her two older sons were at Queen's University – George a postdoc and Bruce an M.Sc. student, while Martin was in Grade 13 at Mackenzie High School. Margaret recalled that the contract for her position at the NRC-AECL Lab in Montreal in 1943 (Section 2) had specified that she would be exempted from high school graduation for entry into any university program in Canada. So, when Martin left for Queen's University in 1971, Margaret decided to continue her education at Carleton University, where she studied Linguistics and Anthropology (1971-75). She also continued at Carleton studying Teaching English as a Second Language (for newcomers from other countries) and accepted a one-year contract at Algonquin College to teach students from Venezuela. She then earned an M.Sc. in Linguistics at Michigan State University (where her father had graduated as an engineer 70 years earlier!) and completed a certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language, TESL (1980-81).



Graduation from Carleton University: BA in Linguistics and Anthropology – 1971-75



Graduation from University of Michigan: MSc in Linguistics and TESL certificate – 1980-81

5) TESL Teacher in Korea: Sogang U, Seoul (1981-90) and Han Nam U, Taejon (now called "Daejeon") 1990-92:

At a TESL conference in Detroit, Margaret was recruited to teach English as a second language at Sogang University in Seoul in 1981. Proficiency in English is highly sought after by Korean students who want a better job or to study in American or Canadian Universities. In 1990, Margaret transferred to Han Nam University in Tejaeon, until 1992.



Break time at Sogang U, Seoul: Margaret's sister, Ruth Jarvis, and nephew, Alan Jarvis, visited her in 1992



In class at Han Nam U., Taejon



International Faculty Picnic in the garden of John Summerhill (4th person from left in back row) at Han Nam University in Daejeon – May 21, 1991. Margaret in front row right with several of her TESL students. Other faculty visitors from France, England and Japan were also present.

6. Experiential English Program at 21 Beach in Deep River (1993-2002):

While in Korea, Margaret was highly respected by her colleagues and students, who encouraged her to consider initiating a summer Experiential English Program in Deep River, with the vision of “Learning by doing”, when she returned to Canada. The program was very successful and has benefited Korean students as well as many Deep River residents. Margaret employed many Deep River people, including local school students, as tutors, who would help with small group lessons as well as excursions to exciting outdoor places in the area, such as Pine Point Beach, Oiseau Rock.

EXPERIENTIAL ENGLISH PROGRAM

MARGARET ELLIOTT, Director
 21 Beach Avenue, P.O. Box 1352, Deep River, Ontario, Canada K0J 1P0
 Phone: (613) 584-2293 Fax: (613) 584-3327



LANGUAGE STUDY PROGRAM
 Several factors are considered when planning the program:

- Students make a self-evaluation of their language strengths and weaknesses
- Students identify their primary goal.

Example: to understand university lectures, to develop critical reading ability, to improve the communication skills required for a professional career, or to prepare for TOEFL

- Students are taught how to select the study materials and study methods that satisfy their particular language needs.

WHAT IS DEEP RIVER LIKE?

- A small town on the shore of the mile-wide Ottawa River
- Wide variety of summer recreation, including tennis, boating and bicycling
- Sandy beaches and safe swimming
- Forest hiking trails to explore
- The nearby Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories and the National Forestry Institute add a special quality to the area
- A peaceful, quiet environment with clean air and friendly people



STUDENT LEVEL

- High school graduates and university students can practice the skills required for academic English and future employment
- Professionals can take short intensive courses in job-related communication skills






Margaret Elliott – Program Coordinator: tutoring a student in her home at 21 Beach Ave.



Alison Arthur – Program Assistant (1994-99)

Synopsis by Alison Arthur: “I worked with Margaret in the Experiential English Program from November 1994 until the private program closed in September 1999. (Margaret and I then went on to jointly run an ESL class for adults at Mackenzie High School funded by the Renfrew County School Board. Margaret retired from that class in 2001 and I continued to run it until 2009.) My role as Program Assistant was to assist Margaret in all aspects of running the school including finding host families, teaching, administration, and organizing field trips. One of the most enjoyable programs we ran was in the winter of 1996 when a former colleague of Margaret’s asked us to run a two-week program for about a dozen girls ranging in age from 10 to 14. Finding host families for them all was a challenge, but we managed. The girls enjoyed not only the usual winter activities – skating, downhill and cross-country skiing, and sledding, but we were able to take them to their very first hockey game, and they all enjoyed watching the Pembroke Lumber Kings in action! They also went on an overnight dog sledding trip to experience winter camping at its best! Our summer programs also included overnight camping in Algonquin Park, trips on Margaret’s motorboat to Oiseau Rock, and trips to Ottawa, North Bay and even once to Sudbury to explore Science North. There is no doubt that all the students enjoyed a truly Canadian experience.”



Break time on the patio at 21 Beach with Margaret, Alison and several students



Outing to Oiseau Rock with Margaret, Alison, her husband Terry (sitting with back to table), Bruce and Iris Elliott, and one student in the program

The Teacher Team also included several Deep River residents and teenagers who helped over the summer months, including Claudia Schmeing (now a lawyer in Toronto), Iris Elliott (now a mechanical engineer), Marion Arthur (now a teacher herself), Anya Waker (now teaching English in Japan), Amanda Nieman (now a teacher), Margo Diamond (now a vice principal at Mackenzie Community School) and Krista Naylor (father was Free Methodist minister at the time who arranged for the School to use the basement of his church in Deep River for overflow as the school grew).

Learning while doing – beyond the classroom!



Paddling on the Ottawa River



Meeting at Centennial Rock

7) Memories from past students:

Hyowon Lee (1993)

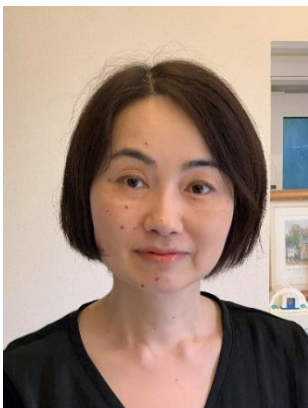


Synopsis by Hyowon Lee: “I am originally from South Korea, and during my college time, I was introduced to Margaret when she visited Seoul. It was the following winter that I took a 3-month language course at Margaret's house in Deep River, in **1993**. Margaret was a caring teacher and took a very personalized approach to preparing lessons. I remember particularly well how she tried to bring different people to the class so that I could be exposed to different ways conversation can go. Those three months in her course were such a pivotal period for me, as that experience gave me the confidence and courage to continue to study abroad after my graduation. I returned to Korea, finished college, and went to Scotland to study more, and then moved to Dublin, Ireland where I still live to this day.

I am now a Lecturer in the School of Computing at Dublin City University here in Dublin, where I use English as my daily language, teaching local Irish students. I am indebted to Margaret and her team for giving me such effective and encouraging lessons that eventually led me to where I am today.”

My host family was Carol and Paul Tonner at 12 Beach Ave.

Tomoko Tokita (1995)



Synopsis by Tomoko Tokita: “It was in the fall of 1993 when I first met Margaret in Tokyo. She visited Japan with Noriko, the wife of George (Margaret's son) and the cousin of my mother. She invited me to join her English programme, but as I was a high school student preparing for college entrance exams, I had to wait until the summer of **1995**.

That was my first time visiting Canada. I arrived in Ottawa at midnight. On the way to Deep River by taxi, I saw a bolt of lightning strike for the first time in my life, which made me realize that I had come to Canada. The programme that began two days later was excellent.”

First, we learned the English language under a carefully prepared programme. A variety of activities took place: we learned reading with some textbooks, wrote some essays, practiced listening with some videos, and had discussions, etc.”

Synopsis by Tomoko Tokita cont'd): “As there were also some Korean students, we had to use English all the time. Margaret, and the other instructors who were from Deep River, were very nice and always helped us communicate in English. I loved the coffee breaks in the morning, talking with everyone.

Next, there were many opportunities set aside for communicating with the people of Deep River. We visited the library, played at the tennis club, etc. I also visited some shops to which Margaret had directed me. My poor English skills sometimes made it difficult for the locals to understand me. However, I managed to communicate with them by gesturing and/or using different vocabulary. It was hard for me at the time, but in hindsight it was a good experience.

Also, we enjoyed spending time in the wonderful nature of Deep River: in Margaret’s back yard, having a barbecue, and canoeing on the Ottawa River (but at first it was not easy without capsizing). In addition, Margaret took us to a nearby small island for a picnic by boat. The hiking and other activities in the wonderful nature were unforgettable!

Lastly, we were exposed to Canadian culture. Above all, I would like to mention my homestay. My host family (Alison and Terry Arthur at 24 Laurier Ave) was very friendly and welcomed me warmly. I learned a lot of things such as lifestyle. Participating in the Deep River Summerfest was also a great experience, so enjoyable with the local people. It was different from the summer festivals in Japan.

Looking back, Margaret prepared and ran the programme with passion. There was never a moment to be bored or rushed. After returning to Japan, I continued to learn English. In 1999, I went to Montreal to earn a MSc degree in education. Today, I am now a lecturer at Jissen Women’s University in Japan, studying bilingualism and foreign language education as well as teaching English classes – hoping to help students improve their English language skills. I am convinced that I am where I am today because Margaret invited me to her programme. May Margaret rest in peace.”

8) Margaret’s final Retirement in Deep River!

Margaret retired from her school in the late 1990’s, passing the leadership on to her colleague Alison Arthur. The school continued in several venues after that. Meanwhile, Margaret enjoyed visiting her three sons’ families in Toronto, Vancouver, and Kingston, and welcomed their summer visits to her home in Deep River. She loved gardening and received a recognition award for her rose garden from the Deep River Horticultural Society.



Summer 2006: – By the water at 21 Beach – Margaret with all three sons and families visiting. From left to right: Bruce and Janet with Iris and Lloyd, Lynn and Martin with Marshall and Rachael, and George (Noriko not able to attend).

9) A warm thank you to Bob Radenovic:

Bob has been a mechanical engineer at the Chalk River Laboratories since the early 1990's. He first met Margaret when she retired from her TESL teaching position at Han Nam U, in Taejon (now called "Daejeon") in Korea, to Deep River where she set up her Experiential English Program in Summer 1993. He assisted Mother in addressing her computer needs and helped with her new office set up in her home.

Bob became a close friend of the family. Mother encouraged him to store his kayak in the bushes by her sandy beach on the Ottawa River. He often came by to chat over dinner with any of her three sons' families when visiting 21 Beach. Bob's son has just completed 1st year engineering at Queen's University!

Thank you, Bob, for all the support you provided for Margaret, upon her return to Deep River.



10. Acknowledgements for Deep River friends and Neighbours who helped Margaret:

i) We would like to offer a very warm thank you to so many who worked with Margaret to make the Experiential English Program run smoothly:

- **Alison Arthur (Program Assistant)** and her husband **Terry** (who often drove Margaret's boat for outings on the Ottawa River),
- **The many Deep River families who hosted students attending her school: Carol and Paul Tonner, Alison and Terry Arthur, Eric & Elaine Butterworth, Jim and Brenda Theaker, Margaret and Bob Ploc, Claire Ghent, Steve and Louise Hansons, and several other families,**
- **The wonderful people in Deep River who offered their time and experience as teaching assistants** (Please see *Teacher Team*, page 6).

ii) Thank you to all the students from Korea and Japan who attended the school, especially **Hyowon Lee and Tomoko Tokita** who shared their experiences in this Remembrance.

iii) Thank you to the many people who helped in researching information and providing photos for this remembrance: **Carol and Paul Tonner, Alison Arthur, Arden Okasaki, Claudia Schmeing, Iris Elliott (Margaret's granddaughter), Hugh Jarvis** (Margaret's nephew now in Buffalo, NY), **Valerie Michell** (cousin of Margaret) and many others.

Respectfully yours,
George, Bruce, and Martin Elliott

11) The following are links to more articles about Margaret Elliott:

i) *Experiential English Language School in Deep River (NRT 1993-03-24)*

ii) *Grand Ladies of Deep River pt3 (NRT 2012-01-10):*

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ogbl#search/george+elliott+nrt+grand+ladies+of+deep+river/FMfcgzGmtNbPdSTPcBgMlIXLldMnSGc?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1.1>

iii) *Tamarack Article (Issue VIII, p31-36): Interview with Margaret Elliott:*

“In life, you have to be flexible and not afraid to try new things.”