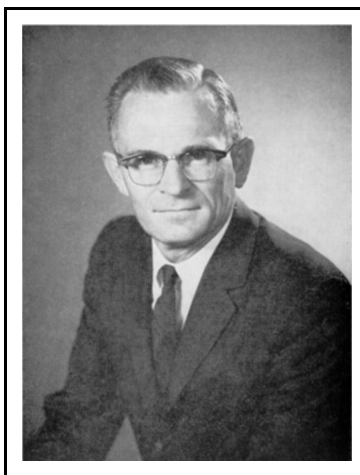


LLOYD GEORGE ELLIOTT, 1919 - 1970

Lloyd Elliott provided outstanding leadership to physics research at the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories (CRNL) for two of its finest decades. He was born in Clarence, Nova Scotia (the same town in which John Stuart Foster was born, three decades earlier), in 1919 on the family farm in the Annapolis Valley. A brilliant student, he graduated from high school at 15 and from Dalhousie University at 19. By the time of his Ph.D. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T) in 1943, he was already the co-author of ten papers. He then moved to the Montreal Laboratory and soon after to Chalk River, where he spent the rest of his career.



Lloyd G. Elliott

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In the early years of Chalk River, Elliott collaborated with Bob Bell on a precision measurement of the deuteron binding energy, which led to a significant revision in the binding energy of the neutron. They also were the first to measure very short gamma ray lifetimes (less than a picosecond). The interest he had developed at M.I.T on beta ray spectroscopy and spectrometers for this purpose continued at CRNL. Continuing on his precocious trajectory, Elliott was elected to the Royal Society of Canada at age 30 and, in 1951, at age 32, was chosen as head of the physics division at CRNL.

Elliott contributed a great deal to the flow of fine physics from CRNL during the 1950's and 1960's. Although not usually directly involved in Chalk River experiments, he had a strong drive to fully understand all of the greatest current issues in nuclear (which he pronounced "nucular") and neutron physics. He had very high standards for science and was excellent at choosing world-class physicists and outstanding research directions. Whenever a major new development in science occurred - for example the discovery of lasers or of parity violation in the weak interactions - he was relentless in achieving an understanding of it, by himself and his colleagues, and of assessing its potential impact on the CRNL program. He was somewhat shy and more formal

than the free-ranging cast of characters he directed, but his leadership managed to get the best out of the laboratory. All oral presentations at conferences by CRNL physicists were carefully rehearsed, and all published papers carefully read. Everyone who worked or collaborated with Elliott admired him greatly and were very saddened at his premature death, in 1970, of a heart attack while swimming. He came to swimming late in life but pursued it, like everything else, with great intensity, even undertaking swimming under the ice. He epitomized the finest traditions at Chalk River and his precocious trajectory blazed out, like a shooting star, much too early.

In 1971, the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP), very appropriately, named the University Prize in honour of Lloyd G. Elliott. The CAP University Prize Examination, a nation-wide competition for senior undergraduates studying physics, recognizes individual scholarship and seeks to stimulate academic excellence in Canadian universities. These are basic components of the philosophy that made Lloyd Elliott so wise a leader in the Canadian physics community.

Elliott created a stimulating and challenging environment where scientific achievement was certainly the driving force, but he always emphasized that the activities of scientists depend on a degree of public understanding that can only come from improved education at all levels of society. Thus the CAP recognized the very fundamental importance of education, as well as outstanding academic achievement, in naming its University Prize in honour of Lloyd Elliott.

by Erich Vogt, Professor Emeritus
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