

# Freda Farrell Waldon

b. Aug. 29, 1898, Winnipeg, MB; d. Nov. 16, 1973, Hamilton, ON



Freda Farrell Waldon, c.1947. Credit Hamilton Public Library

## Education:

Central Public School, Hamilton and Hamilton Collegiate Institute  
1919 BA (University of Toronto)  
1931 MA in English (Columbia University)  
1931 Diploma, School of Librarianship, University of London

## Positions:

1926–1927 Librarian, Circulation Department, Hamilton Public Library  
1927–1940 Head, Cataloguing Department, Hamilton Public Library  
1940–1963 Chief Librarian, Hamilton Public Library

## Publications and other writings:

Waldon, Freda F. (1931). *Alexander Henry, Esq., of Montreal: fur trader, adventurer and man of letters*. New York: Columbia University. (Masters essay, English).

Waldon, Freda F. (1935). "Queen Anne and the four kings of Canada: a bibliography of contemporary sources." *Canadian Historical Review* 16 (3): 266–275.

Waldon, Freda F. (1935), "Suggested program for Canadian libraries." In *Public documents: their selection, distribution, cataloging, reproduction and preservation*, ed. by A. F. Kuhlman: 37–45. Chicago: American Library Association.

- Waldon, Freda F. (1942). "War libraries." *Ontario Library Review* 26 (2): 171-174.
- Waldon, Freda F. and Marget H.C. Meikleham (1944). "If you like books and people; an open letter to the graduating class of McMaster, 1944." *Ontario Library Review* 28 (3): 292-293.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1944). "Larger public libraries in Canada." *Wilson Library Bulletin* 19 (3): 171-173.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1945). "Report of the Committee on Salaries." *Ontario Library Review* 29 (3): 279-280.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1945). "The School comes to the library." *The School [Secondary Edition]: a Magazine Devoted to Elementary and Secondary Education* 33 (5): 387-391.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1947). "National Library service." In *Proceedings of the Canadian Library Association, 2nd Meeting [Vancouver, June 14-16], 1947*: 9-15. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1947). "Why no National Library? CBC Broadcast 27 August 1947." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 4 (2): 41-43.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1948). "Financing the library, a broadcast over CHML." *Ontario Library Review* 32 (1): 3-6.
- Waldon, Freda F. and Katharine Greenfield (1949). "The brains of the library: Hamilton Public Library broadcast over station CHML January 20, 1948." *CLA Bulletin v.5* (5): 168-171.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1949). "We like functional architecture." *Ontario Library Review* 33 (2): 83-87.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1951). "Children are wanted-now!" *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 8 (1): 17-20.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1951). "The Massey report." [a speech given before the] *Hamilton Association*, Nov. 10, 1951.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1951). "W.G.B.: a personal reminiscence [Winifred Barnstead]." *Ontario Library Review* 35 (3) : 203-205.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1953). "A golden anniversary: William Henry Lovering, Q.C., O.B.E." *Ontario Library Review* 37 (1): 15-16.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1953). "The Massey Report - three years after."
- Waldon, Freda F. (1956). "Tribute to a fellow librarian [Charles Sanderson obit]." *Ontario Library Review* 40 (3): 166-167.
- Waldon, Freda F. 1957). "More than a Branch [Westdale in Hamilton]." *Library Journal* 82 (21): 3050-3051.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1963). "Early provisions for libraries in Hamilton." *Wentworth Bygones* 4: 22-35.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1963). "Why local history." *Ontario Library Review* 47 (2): 33-35.
- Waldon, Freda F. (1968). "The C.L.A.-the first twenty years." In *Librarianship in Canada, 1946-1967: Essays in Honour of Elizabeth Homer Morton*, ed. by Bruce B. Peel: 22-37. Victoria: Canadian Library

Association.

Waldon, Freda F. (1990). *Bibliography of Canadiana published in Great Britain, 1519-1973*. Revised and edited by William F. E. Morley. Ottawa: National Library of Canada. (Published posthumously).

## Honours and Accomplishments:

1931–1932 Carnegie Fellowship for study in London

1941–1942 President, Ontario Library Association

1946–1947 First President of the Canadian Library Association

1954 Honorary Doctor of Laws, McMaster University, for her contribution to Canadian librarianship

United Nations Award for Meritorious Service in recognition of 35 years of active membership

Active member of American Library Association, serving on council for four years

## Comments:

Described as a “renaissance Woman” Freda Waldon’s accomplishments were many spreading over three areas – Scholarship, contributions to the improvement of libraries and library services and for dedicated community service. As a professional and chief librarian she transformed the cataloguing system of the Hamilton Public Library and “she will be remembered for the expansion of branch libraries, for increased children’s services, and the enhancing human resources for library staff.” As a library administrator she transformed the Hamilton Public Library into a first rate resource in the areas of catalogue and its book collection.“ Before her retirement the collection was the fourth largest in a public library in Canada; circulation had grown to the third largest and a nation-wide reputation had been gained for the quality of the reference service offered.” Her contributions to library service reached far beyond her own library in her services on the executive of the Ontario Library Association, her leadership as the first president of the Canadian Library Association and her contributions that lead to the development of the National Library of Canada. Her scholarship can be seen in the development of the monumental *Bibliography of Canadiana, Published in Great Britain 1519-1763* which was prepared under a Carnegie Fellowship. A dedicated community worker, she took a leading role in adult education helping to found the Hamilton Recreation Council and the Hamilton branch of the Nation Film Forum She was also a founding member of the Women’s Committee of the Art Gallery of Hamilton and Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society,

## Sources:

[Freda Farrell Waldon](#). Hamilton Public Library. Accessed Feb. 15, 2016.

[Freda Farrell Waldon,1992 Gallery of Distinction Inductee](#). Accessed Feb. 15, 2016.

Wikipedia. [Freda Farrell Waldon](#). Accessed May 29, 2017.

Canadian Who’s Who 1973-75. Toronto: Who’s Who Canadian Publications, 1975. p. 1020.

Kathleen R Mathews, “Freda Farrell Waldon, 1898–1973” (1990). In *Bibliography of Canadiana published in Great Britain, 1519-1973*: pp.xiii–xxxiii. Ottawa: National Library of Canada.

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