

## **Making a Difference One Step At A Time**

Mary Julia Cross Dover lived a full life helping others and making a great difference across Canada. Being born with a tough spirit and great confidence in herself, she was able to accomplish and influence people's lives in a great way that no one else could. Dover's father was one of the Calgary Stampede's Big Four and both her parents were hardworking pioneers and owned a ranch. Dover was a wonderful horseback rider, and was even able to star as a stunt double in a Hollywood film. She was born with pioneering skills from her parents but with a voice of her own that helped her to raise the women's status and even more. Imagine living a life where you never put yourself first and you were constantly helping others. You're proud to be the person you are and continue to help others even while you're going through trials. Dover spent her life doing exactly that. Her story began when she heard about the Holocaust.

Once War World II broke out, Dover couldn't help but sign up for the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Knowing about the holocaust disheartened her greatly and she was ready and willing to help people all across Europe and the world. But little did she know that she would be becoming a great woman in Canadian history. She was positioned as Lieutenant Colonel and Chief Recruiting Officer. Dover was the first Canadian Women's Army Corps contingent to be posted overseas. She served in the war from 1941-1945. From those four years of risking her life to help others, Dover was awarded with four medals, Order of the British Empire, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, 1939-1945 War Medal, and Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal.

But that was not all that she did. Mary Dover was very stubborn and never held herself back. She spoke her mind, not because she could, but so she could make a difference. Dover ran for a seat in the Canadian Government, and was elected a Calgary Alderman. Not only that, she was the first woman on the council as an Alderman.

Her words became her actions, and her actions began to make bigger differences each day. She began to have a great impact in the shaping of Calgary and Alberta. She was showing everyone that they had to be themselves that life isn't just about us but also serving others. Her service helped for our life now and for our future. Now you can see more and more women getting elected into the government, into the Canadian Army, and just like Dover did, making a difference and shaping Canada.

I believe that if not just women, but if everyone were to step up and help others our future could be full of peace and equality. We don't need to join the army or become an alderman, but even little acts of kindness can make the biggest difference in someone's life. If one individual was able to make that big of an impact, imagine having so many of us up to thousands trying to make at least one change. Mary Dover has shown me that we need to have the confidence in ourselves to make a difference, to be the difference. Dover was and will always be a great example to follow because of her confidence and strength. Anne Frank who was one of the unfortunate souls who died in the holocaust once said, *"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."* But overall of everything, Mary Dover was able to make the great differences she made because she believed in herself.