

A Press for Change

Hannah Elizabeth Rolinson Gale, also known as Annie Gale, pressed for change when Calgary was young to make it what it is today. She has inspired us to take action for a better world. Without her, many things in the past might not have happened and the way things are, in the present Calgary, might be extremely different. She believed in fairness and equity throughout the city.

Before immigrating to Alberta, Annie lived in Nerthon, West Midlands, England, where she received her education at a school for girls. She wrote the Oxford University Examination test and passed, however women were not yet allowed to attend. She helped out with their family business and later in 1901 she married a engineer named William John Gale.

When Annie Gale emigrated from England she came with her husband William and their two young sons, because some of her family had already emigrated and she wanted to join them. Annie was not impressed with how our society ran. She felt there was a need for change, vegetables were of low quality for such a high price, livestock had better medical treatment than pregnant women, and there was a lack of affordable housing.

The vegetables that Annie and her family received became a growing issue and she began to organize a consumers' league in Calgary so that she could make

the public market a public issue. After 500 housewives attended a meeting and 4 hours of heckling the aldermanic candidates, the City fathers decided a local market was necessary and by 1914 Calgary had its first permanent local market.

Annie played her part in the community well. She organized the first ever Women's Ratepayer's Association in Canada. After women received the right to vote, the group invited her to run in the 1917 city council election in Calgary. Even though there were not any women in Canada's government, Annie managed to win a seat. The following year she was elected acting mayor by the city council. This was the first time in the British Empire, that a woman performed the duties of a mayor. During her time in the council, she focused on many committees such as the; legislative, health, receptions, publicity, railways, new industries, and market advisory.

Later in 1923, Annie resigned from her position on the city council. The following year, she was elected to the school board. In the 8 years on city council, she achieved many things to help make Calgary the peaceful place we live in today and for the future generations.

I believe many people do not recognize the mistakes and achievements of the past. If more people knew about these important events and figures, our world would change considerably. There are people out there that want to make a

difference. Many of those people do not know how. Courage of your convictions is one of the most important steps to make the change.

Annie Gale proved that if you really believe in yourself, you have the power to make a change in our society. Learning about important figures and events of the past, helps us make the future brighter. Without the heroes of the past, the heroes of the present would have more work to do. Even with them, we still need to change what we do in our society. Every one around us, together, can help the world, if you believe in yourself, stand up to the world and make your voice heard.

No matter what you dream of or how big or small it is, try to make your vision of the future realistic. If you try hard and push to succeed, maybe you will be the new Annie Gale. "We have a world to conquer...one person at a time...starting with ourselves"-Nikki Giovanni