Naming Committee
Honouring People and Places in Our City

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

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David Elston

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David Elston began his educational career as a high school teacher in Ontario. He later supplemented his educational qualifications with accountancy and shorthand reporting courses, and in 1902, he accepted the position as Principal of a commercial college in Seattle, Washington.

In 1907, he came to Edmonton as Principal of Alberta Business College and left the establishment in 1914. He was then appointed by the Dominion Government Department of Soliders' Civil Re-Establishment to arrange for disabled veterans of the First World War to complete educational courses. After completing the assignment, Mr. Elston opened a commercial and academic college in Edmonton that became known as Edmonton College in 1921.

Edmonton College was appointed as an institution where teachers were trained for High School Operations of Bookkeeping, Law, Office Practice, Shorthand, Typewriting, and many more operations were taught and skills were acquired. For five consecutive years, the students at Edmonton College were awarded gold medals for excellence in Penmanship by the Business Journal of New York City.

Mr. Elston was known as an expert in Handwriting for the Crown on forged and disputed documents relating to criminal actions tried throughout Western Canada. He was also the author of several works including an international copyright system of Shorthand.

Written by; Danielle Ferchoff
March 2013

CITATION ON FILE

"David Elston, Prin. Edmonton College Inc.," Edmonton Bulletin, 3 September 1938. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.

Amy Louella Elston

(1884-1969)

Amy Louella Elston was well-known for her involvement in education, politics, community service, and journalism.

Mrs. Elston was born in St. Stephens, New Brunswick in 1884. She began her career in public services began in 1916 as managing editor of The Westerner, a Calgary-based financial and industrial periodical. In 1922, she married David Elston and the couple moved to Edmonton. Mr. Elston was the founder of Edmonton College, a commercial and financial school where Mrs. Elston served as Principal from 1922 until the school was disbanded in 1954.

Amy Louella Elston was a long-time member of the Edmonton Women's Liberal Association and the association's president from 1949 until 1954. She was a founding member of the local branch for the Canadian Citizenship Council and she received the Freedom for Hungary medal in 1956 in recognition of her efforts to organize the council's Carnival of Nations.

Written by; Danielle Ferchoff
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CITATION ON FILE

"Ex-college principal dies at 85," Unknown Source, 22 May 1969. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.