

THE BELMONT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE WAR EFFORTS

In August, 1915, the Institute felt the call for increased War Activities. Up until this time, they had been working in a small way providing for our home boys who were overseas. It was at this time that they organized a Red Cross branch, known as the "Belmont Women's Institute Red Cross Society".

They soon found, however, it was impossible to raise funds enough to take care of all the material they could use, so a delegation was sent to each of the councils of the four municipalities of which Belmont was a part, to ask for aid. The result was that each municipality granted them ten dollars a month for Red Cross purposes while the war lasted.

With these grants, and funds raised from Garden parties, Open Air concerts, Plays, Bazaars, Serving Dinners and other activities, over five thousand dollars was raised, of which four thousand was spent in material for working purposes.

Each boy of the community who served overseas was given ten dollars on their return home. Other donations were made to Russian Relief, China and Armenian Relief. Seventy-five dollars was sent to the department to help purchase a hospital ship. When Peace was declared, all work left in work rooms was turned over to the London Red Cross Rooms.

In World War 2, Belmont Women's Institute worked faithfully with the Red Cross, sewing, knitting, and quilt making, and many of our members gave Blood Donations from time to time. The Institute also helped buy a Canteen Kitchen for overseas use.

Several Red Cross quilting groups were organized. One group north of Belmont made one quilt weekly for overseas during three years of World War II.

*The picture shown below is of this happy group.

Whenever the Institute was asked for financial aid or other assistance, it was always cheerfully and willingly given.



Back row - Nellie George, Geisha Bagnall, Mrs. E. Cole, Mrs. Wilcox, Mrs. J. McLellan,
Mrs. Harry Jaynes, Mrs. W. Smith
Mrs. C. Warren, Mrs. W. Cornish, Mrs. M. Cole, Mrs. Estelle Pettit, Mrs. Myrtle Demeray.

ARENA



AUG • 60

FIRE HALL

ACHIEVEMENTS:



BELMONT BAND 1922

MAY • 61



Arena Gates

THE BELMONT ARENA

After the War, a need was felt for a Community Centre or Arena. An extensive canvass was made for financial support. In 1948-49 the Belmont Community Centre or Arena was constructed on the Fair Board property under the supervision of John Coleman.

An annual event begun in War years was the Street Carnival. In the summer of 1949 this moved into the new arena and a gala opening was held.

It became the home of Belmont Hockey with ice facilities constantly being improved. In 1961 artificial ice was installed. A mechanized planing and flooding machine will be put into use in October 1971. Ice skating is available and there is a Figure Skating Club.

For many years the Belmont Fair was held almost totally inside the arena. Other activities have included countless Carnivals, Rodeos, Figure Skating Carnivals, Barbecues, Ball Games and Snowmobile Races.

Upstairs a fine kitchen was installed and the auditorium is used for Dances, Variety Shows, Banquets, Wedding Receptions and Meetings. As well it is the home of the Belmont Lions and Leo Clubs.

On the grounds are two parking lots, two Ball Diamonds, Recreation Park playgrounds and the Fire Hall.

The Community Centre is governed by the Arena Board. The General Manager is Donald Yeck.