WORLD WAR I

The Home Front

Very soon after hostilities began in 1914 the Renfrew branch of the Red Cross was organized and women's organizations in the surrounding district received yarn for hand knit socks, mitts, sweaters, scarves and such comforts, from the Renfrew branch, upon application for the material. Cotton for bed linens and other hospital requirements was also availablefor those who desired to do sewing. The finished articles were returned to the Renfrew depot.

Jam was made in the homes and donated for shipment overseas.

The Ladies Aid of the local Presbyterian church in Admaston, and the Bonnechere Valley Institute were the local women's organizations sponsoring the work in the community.

Due to the shortage of farm help at that time, farmer's wives and daughters here as well as elsewhere took on added duties outside the housework, and were often found operating machinery helping in hay and harvest field; in fact any where an extra pair of hands was needed, whether it was man's or women's work. Needless to say the children were called upon to help in extra duties and as the result of all working together the work of the farm was carried on.

Young men of the community who were physically unfit for military duty were to be found working in ammunition factories and war industries in Renfrew.

Hearts and homes were saddened when casualty lists contained names of young men, former residents of the community.

The community welcomed home the young men and young women nurses as they returned from overseas.

Shortly after their return to their homes a community party was held at the home of the one returned or sometimes several were welcomed at one party. Here each was presented with an address of welcome and a purse of money. The remainder of the evening was spent with music, games and dancing.

The Admaston Council presented a medal to each member of the armed forces, engraved thereon his name and rank, and date of period of service.

Medals of those who lost their life were presented to the next of kin.

27(a)