

years to raise and donate two thousand dollars to the rink fund.

The ladies were concerned over the lack of high school facilities and in 1937 a petition was signed and presented to the school board asking them to look into ways and means and in 1939 the Gravenhurst High School agreed to accept Bala students. The Bala school board arranged to have them taken to and from high school each day-that it was a good move may be seen by thinking of the young people now successful in professional and business life.

1939 - once again the war clouds hang heavily and the Institute members work as a body on the stacks of knitting, hospital supplies, refugee garments, quilts and return the finished articles to the Red Cross which had a branch in Bala at that time, knitting too, for the boys, often with heavy hearts. The members decided that parcels of food, cigarettes and knitted wear should be sent twice a year to all the town boys and girls in the services, and many were the schemes to raise funds, for in the last year of the war, one hundred and twenty three parcels were sent out.

1945 - at last the guns are silent; there are joyful homecomings, and we remember with grateful hearts those who came not - "They Grow Not Old" . A grand banquet was again planned by the W.I. assisted by all the ladies of the town for the returned girls and boys and their families and at which the town made a presentation to each one.

Victory Hall - put to such good use those years was burned in 1942 and at this time of writing (1950), a new community centre is planned to be built on town motor park property and again the W.I. promise support and have already given three hundred dollars to the fund. In the past year the ladies have bought kitchen equipment, gas stove, dishes, silverware and table linen in order to cater for the Lion's Club dinners.

Aside from all these larger items being looked after through the years, cheer for the sick and bereaved of the community have not been neglected. Appeals for aid for destitute families and relief for fire, flood and drought sufferers have been answered over and over again. Bales of clothing are sent each year to the needy, and donations of money have been given many times to the Star Santa Fund, the Sick Children's Hospital, Sanitarium, the Bracebridge Hospital and many other worthy causes.

How do we raise money? Aside from donations and good support in every project, there have been teas, plays, quilts, concerts, dances and dinners - who can remember all the ways.

From the foregoing account, it can readily be seen that the Institute is successful financially, but is it worthwhile in our lives? Yes - we learn many things about