

## LOCAL NEWS

# Last teen video dance Sept. 5

The last teen video dance of the season will be held at Colborne's Keeler Centre Friday, September 5.

Due to the August 14 power outage, the dance originally scheduled for August 15 was rescheduled as a community

power-saving effort.

"Thank you to all the teens and their parents for being so understanding," Donna Rusaw, Keeler Centre Banquet and Special Event Coordinator at the centre says.

There will be prizes and lots of

ways to celebrate the beginning of the school year with dancing and watching favourite music videos at the September 5 event. The event is for young people aged 10 to 16 years of age, from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$8 per person.

# Atkinson family held 39th annual family

The 39th annual family reunion of the descendants of the late John Alfred Atkinson and Minnie Annetta Macklin Atkinson of Dartford was held July 9 at the Baltimore Community Centre Park. There were more than 70 in attendance, an increase from the 2002 picnic. All four children of John and Minnie Atkinson (Ethel McCleary, Hayden, Warren, and Stuart) were represented at this year's festivities.

The picnic began, as is tradition, by gathering around the picnic tables to sing the noon meal blessing in melodic four-part harmony. There was a sprawling potluck buffet of delicious homemade dishes. The meal was topped-off with mouth-watering homemade pies such as rhubarb, cherry, and raspberry.

After the noon bounty, one of this year's picnic organizers, Faith Atkinson, a great-granddaughter, made family-related announcements and

greeted particular family members who had come from great distances to attend the family reunion. Special attendees this year were Paul, a great-grandson; and Carolyn Goodfellow of Mission, B.C.; Howard Atkinson, a nephew, from Armstrong, B.C.; Carla, a great granddaughter, and Larry Aitken with their son, Matthew, of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; David Cole, a great-grandson, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Donald Cole, a great-grandson, of Traverse City, Michigan; Jim, a great-grandson, and Cledis Elgie of Kitchener; and Gordon, a grandson, and Dorothy Atkinson with their children Rhonda, Henry and Paul Atkinson, all of Ottawa.

After greetings and announcements, picnic organizers engaged the children and teens in a full program of games, races, and prizes. This year's program organizers were

Kerry Bandy, Bev Bandy, Charity Hannigan, and Amy Fleming. All four girls are great, great granddaughters of John and Minnie Atkinson.

The adults broke with tradition this year and did not have adult games, choosing instead to renew acquaintances with visiting family members, many of whom had not seen each other in years.

There were six generations of Atkinsons represented at this year's picnic. Great-great-great-grandchildren in attendance were Aselyn Bandy, Tyler Bandy, Levi Bandy, and Kieran Hannigan. Great-great grandchildren in attendance were Matthew Aitken and Jaden Atkinson.

Carol, a great-granddaughter, and Bill Caine of Cobourg have graciously offered to host next year's family reunion at their home. The 2004 picnic will be the 40th anniversary of the Atkinson Family Reunion.