



Lisa Hart kicked off Friday's entertainment at the Keeler Centre.



Heading into the Keeler Centre for a night of entertainment.

Colborne barbecue recognizes seniors

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COLBORNE -- Barbecue and fellowship were on the menu for area residents to enjoy at the Colborne Local Advisory Committee's Annual Seniors Picnic.

Put on by Community Care Northumberland (CCN), the annual picnic has been a local favourite for many years and Brenda Chapman, CCN program assistant for the Colborne office and picnic organizer, said the event is a highlight of the summer.

Ms. Chapman said, as an organizer there are a lot of things to cover, but people are always available to help, such as the Colborne Masonic Lodge, which took care of the grill, and singer Jeannie Mintz who provided the entertainment.

CCN program coordinator Leiann Peart said close to 100 people came out for the picnic and for her, it's the least CCN can do to say thank you and recognize seniors.

"It means everything. This is a way to give back to all the seniors in our community," she said.

Seniors are getting involved and volunteering more than ever and that is amazing because CCN needs their help and they are certainly getting it, Ms. Peart said.

"It's a much more active seniors community today than it was in the past," she said.

CCN executive director Trish Baird added, often a volunteer has been helped out in the past and they want to pay that kindness forward. That type of commit-



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COLBORNE -- Gayle Burgess, left, serves up some barbecue to John and Jean Day at the Colborne Local Advisory Committee's Annual Seniors Picnic. Put on by Community Care Northumberland, the picnic is a way to recognize seniors in the community and their work as volunteers.

ment is very inspirational.

"When you work with volunteers it's a great place to be because everyone wants to be there," she said.

Seniors are very active in the Northumberland community and in their experience about 85 per cent of the volunteers are over 60 years old, she said.

Colborne resident Peg Tozek got involved and volunteered her time because she was inspired by the help she received.

"They helped me when I had cancer and I wanted to help a little back," she said.

Now 15 years later, she is still glad to help out CCN as a driver.

Having an event such as the annual picnic is a great way to get together with fellow volunteers and although it's not necessary, it is still nice to be appreciated, she said.