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Shiloh inhabitants, along with neighboring community members, celebrated church's 130th birthday, Sunday

This old church: Shiloh landmark has weathered 130 years of service

By Bob Owen

Under brilliant skies, more than 50 friends of Shiloh United Memorial Church gathered to celebrate its 130th anniversary Sunday.

Organized by its founders as the Walker Congregation in the mid-1800's, the church held its first service in the present building in November, 1863.

It remained an active church until 1965. Since that time the church has held annual services, and opened its doors occasionally for special occasions.

Prior to delivering his sermon, Rev. Victor Parsons commented on the new roof, and repairs which have been complet-

ed on the foundation.

Funds for these projects have been provided by the Shiloh Ladies' Group, and from donations.

This summer, members of the Shiloh community have begun stripping and staining the outside of the church. Led by the community's senior resident, Lawrence Mutton, volunteers have scraped and stained two sides of the church.

This project will continue each summer until all the original paint has been replaced by stain, in keeping with the LACAC guidelines. Shiloh Church is a designated historic site.

Following the sermon and solos by Laurie Mutton, lunch was shared on the church lawn.

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A helping hand — Colborne Fire captain Brian Rusaw (left) accepts a cheque for \$1,500 from Castleton Colborne Optimist Club member Doug Chapman. The money is added to \$3,000 already given by the Kinsmen and Rotary Clubs toward the purchase of Jaws of Life and other rescue equipment (laid out on the ground). The \$4,500 donations will just about cover the cost of the equipment, said Mr. Rusaw. Photo by Eileen Argyris