



**ARENA COMMITMENT RECOGNIZED** – (L-R) Doug Barnett, Cindy Barnett and Mark Barnett of DPM Insurance Group present a ceremonial cheque for \$25,000 to Tiina Lehtola, the fundraising coordinator for the Essex Arena Fundraising Campaign. Efforts to date have brought in about half of the \$1.5 million the Kinsmen Club pledged to raise for the project. The group is planning a fundraising event for Sept. 23 that will be held in conjunction with the grand opening of the Essex Cookhouse.

## Loaring triathlon scheduled for Saturday

BY FREE PRESS STAFF

Olympic hopeful James Loaring is looking forward to another year of his family's triathlon raising funds for the memorial fund created for his mother.

Loaring, 28, has helped organize the Harrow event for seven of the past eight years.

The Elena Loaring Memorial Fund for Breast Cancer Research began in 2004, through the University of Windsor.

Elena lost her battle with cancer in January 2004. That year, the triathlon raised more than \$52,000 for annual scholarships for graduate students studying in the area of breast cancer research at the university.

Also, Loaring said the provincial government will double all proceeds generated at the event.

The event will take place Saturday, Sept. 9 at 881 County Rd. 50 E. near Harrow.

The triathlon consists of a 375-metre swim, an 11-kilometre bike ride and a 2.6-kilometre run to finish the race.

Beginner participants will go through the triathlon once, while "double" or more experienced athletes will perform the events twice.

This year, they anticipate

about 250 athletes will participate.

With spectators and volunteers, about 600 people are expected in total to attend.

The race begins at 11:30 a.m.

At the end of the day, there will be an all-you-can-eat BBQ and musical entertainment.

Loaring retired from the event in 2003, because he found he was busy enough with organizing.

Still, he is a regular competitor in triathlons around the world and has raced in Brazil, Australia, Mexico and parts of Europe and Asia.

"Making the Olympics is my ultimate goal," he said. "I'm going to do my best but only two or three athletes from Canada will be chosen."

Canadian triathlon runners are scouted for the Olympics during a series of performances organized by the International Triathlon Union.

Loaring has been swimming since age five and running since grade school, although he admits that growing up he always dreamed of being a soccer star.

At age 22, he started to seriously train for triathlons.

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