

BOTHWELL'S BLAST FROM THE PAST

Thousands of antique cars roll into Bothwell for a weekend of fun

HEATHER WRIGHT/THE HERALD

Thousands of people filled Victoria Park in Bothwell for the Old Autos Carshow and Optifest this weekend, despite threatening skies. Organizers said the threat of rain may have kept some collectors away, but the crowds were still treated to nearly 1,000 classic and antique vehicles while car enthusiasts shopped for tough to find parts during the event. One of the highlights of the show is always the Bothwell and Thamesville Firefighters' Associations 50/50 draw. This year Thamesville's Mike Wright picked up over \$37,000 in prize money. But, Chatham-Kent Police also report a white 1982 GMG S15 pickup with the licence plate 4H3723 was stolen while at the show. Anyone who may have any information can contact Const. Jake Reed at jaker@chatham-kent.ca.



Around 1:30 pm Saturday, the skies over Victoria Park were threatening (center). People reflected in the grill of a 1952 Mercury (left). Many car enthusiasts were looking for parts at the show and some found them (below). There is always time for a quick fix at the Bothwell Old Autos Show (left).



The Old Autos/Optifest Weekend is a big one for local charities as many groups set up food booths. The Bothwell Optimists (right) were serving up fries to the crowds - a very hot job on the humid day. The Bothwell and Thamesville firefighters also had a food booth at the event (left) with Steve Bolton and Evan Lambrecht at the barbecue. And the Bothwell and Thamesville firefighters associations run the massive 50/50 draw which was won this year by Thamesville's Mike Wright.

