

Missing girls safe after scare at fair

By Kate Hendry

Security at the Acton Fall Fair was put to the test Saturday night when the families of two local pre-teen girls realized they hadn't been seen in two and a half hours at 7:30 p.m. The Agricultural Society sprang into action by closing the gates and searching the fair-

grounds section by section.

Members of the Knights of Columbus security and parking crews got down on hands and knees to check in and under vehicles for the lost girls. No vehicle was permitted to leave the property without first being searched.

As an ominous rain fell from the sky, anxious people hoping to get into the fair congregated on Park Avenue after discovering the locked gates. The crowd quickly became rowdy and additional police officers and cadets were dispatched to maintain the peace.

Fairgoers quickly learned of the girl's disappearance as news spread across the security radios and social media. A worried community offered help and brought forward possible information of when the girls were last seen and where they might be found.

Noting that most missing person cases end with finding the person at home, police insisted the families call home, hoping the girls had hitched a ride to one of their country homes. Shortly after 8 p.m., the families were relieved to discover the girls were safe and sound. They

had walked the approximately 9-km home to Ballinafad, without thinking about the panic they might cause during the long walk no one knew they were taking.

Once the police confirmed the girls were safe, the gates were re-opened. The growing crowd quickly made its way into the fair, dispersing to the rides, beer tent, and entertainment. While angry grumblings of the locked gates, unnecessary panic, and painstaking search could be heard, everyone was grateful for the happy ending.

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MISS ACTON 2014



CONGRATULATIONS

Karoline Fontana



ALL SMILES: 2nd Runner Up Jessamyn Chan, Miss Acton Karoline Fontana, and 1st Runner Up Lindsay Christopher spend their first of many moments together this year posing for photographs. — Kate Hendry photo.

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