

The Alcoves, above, will be one of the performers at this year's annual Rock the Hills event, taking place this Saturday, Sept. 30.



Beatrice Sharkey/submitted.

Rock the Hills heading back to Halton Hills this weekend

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The third annual Rock the Hills is making its way back to Downtown Georgetown this weekend.

On Sept. 30, Rock the Hills, a youth-run initiative, will be taking place at a number of venues in downtown Georgetown, including the Helson Gallery, the McGibbon Hotel, Silvercreek Coffee House, Center Stage, Couture Cupcake Boutique, and My Fit Little Foodie. The event, which coincides with Culture Days, is featuring all local youth bands and is run primarily by youth of the community.

The idea came from local youth bands looking for a more representative space in the area.

"It's really cool," Beatrice Sharkey, co-lead for the event planning team, said. "When we first started working on Rock the Hills,

we searched through Canada and there was no music event that was run by youth for youth and focused on youth performers."

Performances include Rikashay, Minivan, Little Berlin, The Tradition, Vivian Hicks, Wilson and the Cast Aways, and more. There will also be a spoken-word performance by Harrison Jedan.

The first two years took place at the Georgetown Fairgrounds, and although the space could accommodate the guests, it wasn't appropriate for some of the bands.

"It wasn't a benefit to them to being on the really big stage," Sharkey said. "Financially, it meant that [we] needed to charge for the gate."

After last year's event wrapped up, Sharkey and the youth involved decided to go smaller scale and feature a number of different

venues.

"We're calling it a band-crawl," she explained. "Basically, it's in one area, you can walk to all the settings, there's multiple variety of genres on, and it's still being planned by youth and led by youth on the day."

"We're pretty excited about it."

The event is free, and wristbands are being distributed at the local high schools this week, and will be available starting at 5 p.m. at the McGibbon on Saturday. Youth, high school students, and young adults are welcome to join in the festivities.

"There's lots of variety and lots of options and there will be some really great music," Sharkey said.

The event takes place this Saturday, Sept. 30 with bands performing from 7-11 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, visit rockthehills.ca.

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