

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
Special to the IFP

Halton Hills's first large-scale music festival is getting ready to hit the stage at the Georgetown Fairgrounds next month.

Plans are well underway for the event— aptly named Rock the Hills— which is being organized by teens from all three local high schools and presented by the Optimist Club of Halton Hills, in partnership with the Halton Hills Cultural Roundtable (HHCR) and Town of Halton Hills.

The rain-or-shine festival will kick off at 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 12 with a musical line-up of talented local youths and headliner Hollerado, a Juno-nominated band.

"It will be like nothing Halton Hills has ever seen before," said event co-lead John Muirhead, who's also a student at Christ the King and member of local band

Casual Disaster.

The event team put out a call for auditions earlier this year to seek local musicians for the festival. Gone are the days of bands coming in person to audition for a panel of judges; instead, organizers received almost two dozen submissions online.

"It was not an easy decision to make with the quality of the submissions," said Don Ablett of the HHCR.

The team managed to narrow the talent down to three solo artists and three bands: Hannah Ward, Ryan Bourgeois and Erica Knox, along with rock bands Mill Pond, Standby and Casual Disaster.

In addition to the musical line-up, a variety of activities have been planned for throughout the day, including hot air balloon rides, henna tattoos, an inflatable 'megaslide,' vendor shopping opportunities and a mini Colour Me Rad-



Local rock band Casual Disaster is among the talented line-up slated for the Rock the Hills Music Festival on Saturday, July 12th. From left to right are band members Dulwin Jayalath, Ryan Keane, Jesse Bydevaate, Jeff Hutchison and John Muirhead.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

style race, where participants are sprayed with colours as they run.

Food will be available to purchase on-site from a variety of food trucks. A guitar signed by the members of Hollerado will also be up for grabs in a raffle.

"We're hoping this will be a whole come-to-hang-with-your-friends, Coachella (music and arts

festival) experience," said HHCR executive director Beatrice Sharkey. "It'll be a cool spot to go."

Muirhead noted that the festival won't be like your average small-town musical event.

"We're really trying to erase that stigma. This will be a professional show with staging, lighting and sound," he said.

Ablett said he's been nothing but impressed by the hard work put in so far by the dedicated group of about 20 local youths planning the festival.

"The skill set they bring is fantastic," he said. "The youth in this area is in good hands if they're representative of what we've got locally."

The festival will cost an estimated \$60,000 to \$70,000, which will be recouped through ticket sales, grants and sponsorships.

To keep the event running smoothly, 150 volunteers will be needed for the day on July 12th. Those who volunteer will receive a free ticket for the festival.

Tickets cost \$25 and are on sale now at www.rockthehills.ca. Anyone interested in signing up as an event day volunteer, sponsor or vendor can also contact the festival through the website.



*Jeff Edwards &
Maggie Brown,
Stag & Doe*

June 7, 2014
8pm – 1am

Masonic Hall, 12 Lindsay Court,
Georgetown Ontario

Tim Hudak's education agenda:
Cuts first. Kids last.



Tim Hudak's Conservatives say they will cut 19,000 teachers, education assistants, custodians, and other school staff.

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- less individual attention for every child
- less support for students with special needs
- cuts to vital programs kids count on

We can't afford to relive the Mike Harris years of cuts, overcrowded classrooms, and chaos. The cost to Ontario's future is too high.



**On June 12th
don't let Tim Hudak's
Conservative cuts hurt
your child's chances.**



Kim and Lisa Witton are very pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter

Janine Witten
to
Justin Fidler

Son of Sue Fidler
and Shawn Campbell