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THE FIRST GOAL IS HAVING FUN.



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What matters to this teen won her \$250

Jessica Allen, a student at Christ the King Secondary School, won the \$250 bursary from the Georgetown Independent & Free Press contest held earlier this year. Students in their final year of high school were invited to send an essay answering the question: In your opinion what is the single most significant topic that matters to you and directly affects your com-

Here is Jessica's essay

The Opinion of **Teens Everywhere**

By Jessica Allen

Community is definitely a good word to use when thinking of Georgetown. Even with a population of over 40,000 people Georgetown is said to be a friendly environment that has a definite community feel to it.

Some people my age (17) would say that 'Georgetown is too small' and 'when I'm old enough I am getting out of Georgetown.' In my eyes this is a foolish notion, Georgetown is an awesome place to live; there is just one thing I would change. The community is great, people are involved and welcoming but one thing I would say needs improvement is lack of places to have fun.

Sure if you really analyze the town there is a bowling alley, and a mall, but what else? Georgetown may feel like a community but it is still 23km in total, who really can walk that distance? As a teen who is active in the community I say give the younger people what they want please. Every friend, acquaintance, and even just people I have asked say that they would enjoy their stay in Georgetown a great deal more. Add to that the fact that opening new teen friendly places like a movie theatre or maybe an arcade would offer more job opportunities within the community.



Independent & Free Press general manager Steve Foreman (right) hands over a \$250 cheque to Georgetown Contests winner Jessica Allen.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

This issue, although it is not as pressing as some issues, is important to me because I am a teen, and we do get bored very easily. After all the homework, and stress of working we just want to unwind with our friends and have some fun, but without a car, there is only so much fun one can have living in Georgetown.

So even though I am 17 and leaving for university almost momentarily I still really care about Georgetown. Adding in these little things will give Georgetown that thriving feature it needs, and one day years into the future I will have teenage kids and instead of being annoyed that they do not have anything to do in Georgetown they will be excited to go to the movies with their friends and will not ask to borrow the car.

Get your tickets for Rock the Hills Festival on July 12

Rock the Hills— the rain-or-shine festival— will kick off on Saturday, July 12 at 3 p.m. with a musical line-up at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. Tickets cost \$25 and are on sale now at www.rockthehills.ca.

The event includes: headliner band: Canada's Juno award winning indie rock band Hollerado, plus six local bands fea-

turing youth from across our community. It will also include a colour fight and art wall, rides on a hot air balloon annd loads of other activities, merchandise vendors and food trucks.

For more details, to become an event sponsor or sign up to be a volunteer, go www.rockethehills.ca

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