



The Colour Fight was a popular event just before Hollerado took the stage (right) in the first Rock the Hills Music Festival.

Photos by Ray Lavender



Rock the Hills rocked

Better than expected ticket sales, sunny weather, exuberant youth, and good music created the perfect formula for a successful Rock the Hills Music Festival at the Georgetown Fairgrounds on Saturday (July 12).

"It was a whole vibe of just hanging out with friends, playing with beach balls, frisbees and listening to good music," said Beatrice Sharkey, of the Halton Hills Cultural Roundtable on Monday.

The music festival was created and organized over the past 10 months by a dedicated group of about 20 youth from the three local high schools, with assistance from the Cultural Roundtable, Town of Halton Hills and the Halton Hills Optimist Club. "They pulled it off and it was a huge moment for them (the youth)," said Sharkey.

Organizers aimed for tickets sales of 600 but 700 handed over their \$25 to hear Juno-nominated headline band Hollerado, with six opening acts of Casual Disaster, Standby, Mill Pond, Erica Knox, Ryan Bourgeois and Han-

nah Ward.

Sharkey said Hollerado was so impressed with this youth-led event, they indicated their wish to be part of it next year to encourage the youth-led musical experience in this community. Earlier this year, Hollerado had hosted a mentoring session at the John Elliott Theatre with the selected opening acts to prepare them for the professional outdoor stage performance.

Casual Disaster band members were thrilled when Hollerado invited them onstage to perform an encore with them.

On Saturday, Q107 broadcast from the Fairgrounds and more than 150 had a bird's eye view of the event from the Re/Max hot air balloon, while many others had a blast at the unique Colour Fight Pit before Hollerado took the stage.

Rock the Hills Music Festival will return next summer, with planning to begin likely next month, said Sharkey. New business partners and technical experts have already indicated an interest supporting the event.

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