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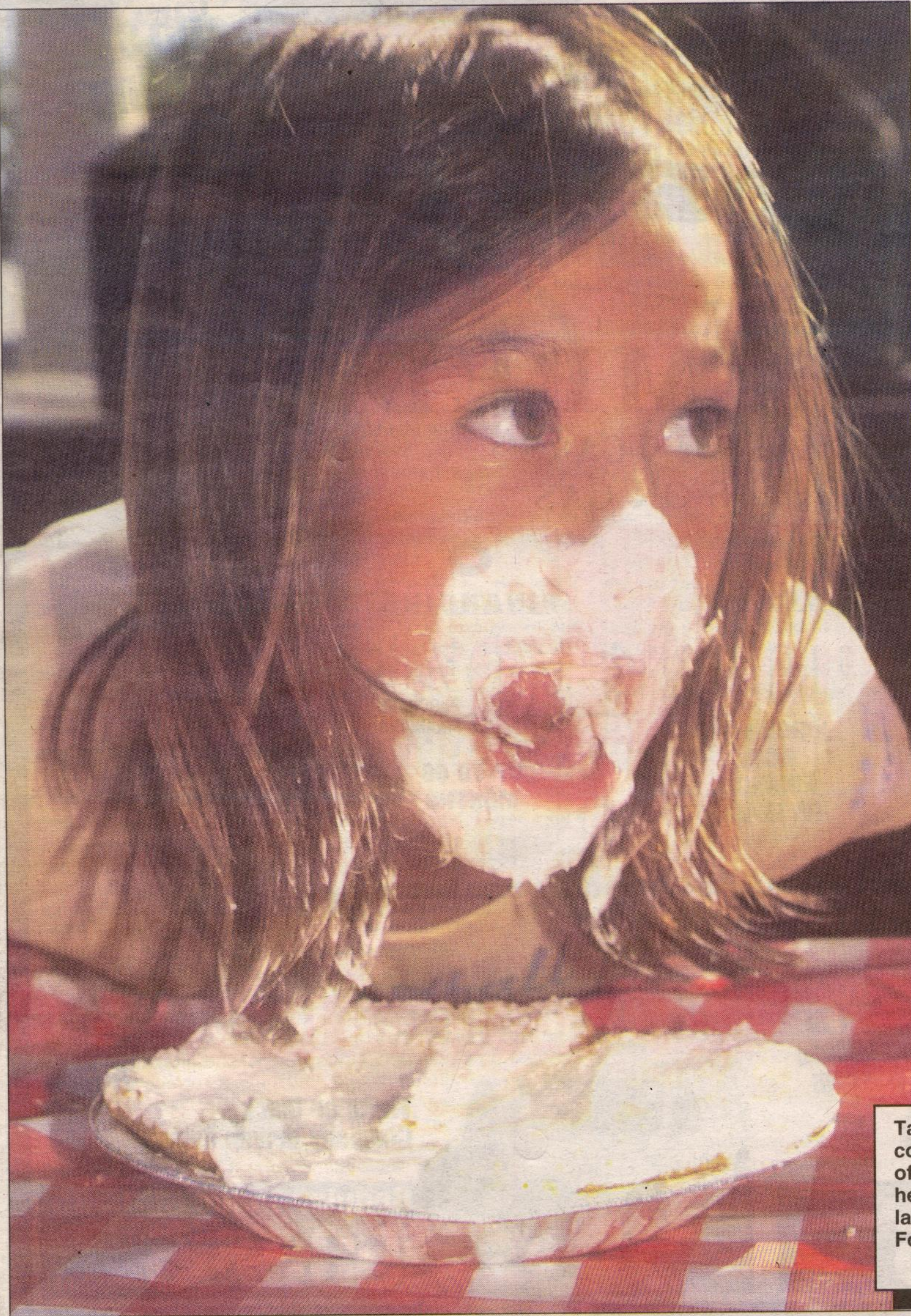
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'Great' One word sums up 158th edition of Georgetown Fall Fair

Great weather and assurances of increased security led to a huge turnout at the 158th annual Georgetown Fall Fair.

"All in all, it was a great weekend," said Georgetown Agricultural Society Secretary Lorrie Cooper. While numbers haven't been tallied as yet, gate receipts were up during the three-day event, and Cooper attributes this to assurances of increased security as well as the clear, warm weather.

"Halton Police, the Lions Club, the Lorne Scots, Town of Halton Hills, Georgetown Agricultural Society and the (Fairgrounds) neighbours all co-operated together to improve the security," she said, referring to efforts made to avoid a repeat of last year's riot.

Other than dealing with a couple of people attempting to sneak into the three-day event, no problems were reported, she said.

Last year, police had to use rubber bullets and pepper spray to disperse what witnesses called a "rock and beer can-throwing" crowd of up to 500 people, primarily teens who rioted at closing time on the Saturday night of the fair. At the end of the criminal investigation, 14 arrests had been made.

This year new security measures were instituted, which included double fencing the perimeter, setting up a police command post at the entrance and asking surrounding neighbours to leave their outside lights on.

Cooper said that neighbours were "fabulous" throughout the weekend, and in turn, fair board members were told by the neighbours that this year's fair was quieter and the best run in many years. A Town of Halton Hills bylaw officer stood by late Sunday night to ensure the Midway operators adhered to an 11 p.m. shutdown time.

A special emphasis was placed on offering teen events this

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Tasha Truscott, 10, of Georgetown keeps an close eye on the competition during the pie-eating contest at the 158th edition of the Georgetown Fall Fair Saturday. The three-day event, helped by perfect weather and tighter security in the wake of last year's riot, drew large crowds according to organizers. For more photos see page 11.

Photo by Trish Wilkinson



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