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Flying high at the fair

Nine-year-old Corey Gillies of Georgetown showed off his gymnastics skills in a demonstration at the Georgetown Fall Fair. For more photos see page 10. For a recap of the Fair weekend, see page 3 and for details on Acton's Fall Fair this weekend, see page 4.

Photo by Yves Desjardins

Halton police pepper spray teenagers at the fall fair

Although the Georgetown Fair is being touted as a success by organizers, the event was once again marred when several youths were charged by Halton Police at the event Friday night.

Halton Regional Police Inspector Ron Welsh said that at 11 p.m. Friday approximately 70 to 100 youths were congregating outside of the fairground's gates at Mill St. and Park Ave.

Welsh said police were attempting to clear the park at closing time by asking the youth to leave.

"Some took exception to that," said Welsh. "They weren't leaving the area when they were told to do so."

Welsh said police arrested some youths for being intoxicated in a public place, other youths attempted to interfere and a few youths were taunting police. Police used pepper spray in the incident.

He said one youth was yelling and screaming in the middle of the street, encouraging others to swear, and another man used obscene language when he was asked to leave.

In the end, police charged six Georgetown male youths. Three youths, aged 16, 17 and 18 were each charged with causing a disturbance, and three 17-year-olds were charged with being intoxicated in a public place.

Welsh said approximately 25 police officers were working the fair Friday night, and six additional officers were called in to help out at closing time. He said police had learned there would be possibly a fight outside the entrance of the park that night.

In comparison to the 2003 riot at the fair in which police used rubber bullets and fire hoses to disperse a rock-throwing crowd of about 500 people, Friday's incident "was minor," said Welsh.

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