

Fredericton-born musician wants to be a role model

TIMES & TRANSCRIPT STAFF

BronweN wants to be the role model she never had as a youngster in school. The Fredericton native, who is pursuing a music career in Vancouver now, says she hopes to use the music on her debut album, *Silent Victim*, to inspire kids who are victims of bullying.

BronweN, now 28, grew up being bullied in school. In fact, the bullying once led her to initially giving up on songwriting.

"I was 11, and I was writing songs," she says, on the phone from her parent's home in Fredericton where she stayed while on the East Coast promoting the album. "I didn't know how to write songs, I was trying to copy what I heard on the radio. One day, someone photocopied lyrics of mine and hung them up all over my classroom. I came back from recess and my words were all over the walls."

That and many other incidents hurt BronweN (who doesn't use her last name). She says she's not sure what should be done in the school system to stop bullying, but she says having a role model to look up to would have helped her.

"What would have helped me? To have a role model to say, 'I got through this, and you'll be OK.'" She says she is now "harnessing the hurt" that she felt, and trying to be "a positive role model."

"If they look at me, and hear what I've been through, maybe these kids will believe that they can get through the bullying."

Themes of loneliness, pain and standing up for one's self are all over her new album, available for download on her website, www.bronwenmusic.com. She's not releasing the album in stores, instead releasing it solely online.

When you purchase it, you're automatically entered into her fan club. BronweN plans on sending small gifts to fan club members, and periodically holding contests, the first of which will see one member win one of her guitars, signed by BronweN herself.

The future isn't certain for BronweN, but she says that she would like to make her music career her "day job." She hopes to bring her band across the country early next year.

■ *To check out BronweN's music, go to www.bronwenmusic.com*

Nova Scotia artist Anna Syperek on exhibit at Fog Forest Gallery

Fog Forest Gallery in Sackville, N.B. is currently presenting paintings and etchings by Nova Scotia artist Anna Syperek. Although this exhibition began on Sept. 8, a public reception with the artist will be held on Friday, Sept. 15 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. All are invited. This reception is part of the Sackville Gallery Crawl which involves exhibition openings at

two years of a Fine Arts Degree at York University before moving to Nova Scotia where she graduated from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1980.

Her paintings and etchings have exhibited throughout the Atlantic region in both private and public galleries. She has been awarded the Elizabeth Greenshields Founda-

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