

Huron-Kinloss performer Serena Rutledge preps for EP release

Darryl Coote
Kincardine News

Ripley native Serena Rutledge thought it would be years from now before she'd come out with her first album.

"I didn't think at 14 I'd be able to do it," she said, recently while on her lunch break from Kincardine & District Secondary School. "I always wanted to do it when I grew up -- make CDs -- but I didn't think I could do it now."

Come Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Governor's Inn, Best Western Plus, Rutledge will have surpassed her own expectations with an EP release concert for her first album titled, "Our Best Fight."

"I'm pretty excited," said the music student of Luc-know's Scott Chow. "I've recorded single songs before, but I haven't released them before on iTunes or anything or had a physical CD. So it's pretty exciting."

The process of how she got here started last January when at the encouragement of her mother, Anita Rutledge, she did what turns out to be one of the most Canadian rock and roll moves one can think of -- she applied for a government grant, specifically from The Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings, or FACTOR for short.

"And that's kind of the way Canada's music industry works is even big bands they still use FACTOR funding because they can. I think that's a great thing about Canada," she said, citing the band Marianas Trench as proof that established groups used government funds.

Even still, after having applied for the money, she didn't think it was going to happen.

"I didn't think it was for me," she said. "I thought it was more for people already developed who had a fan base and everything."

However, she did not have to wait long as she was on March break when she got word back from FACTOR.



Rob Boyce/Your Life in Stills Photography

Ripley singer and musician Serena Rutledge is releasing her first EP on Dec. 12, 2015.

"I was in Florida. I was sitting by the pool and my mom got an email, and she went over to my dad and she shows him her iPad screen, and she's like, 'Am I reading this right?' And I'm like, 'What are you talking about?'"

"I think I screamed. I don't know if I screamed. I jumped up and ran over to look at her screen. I was not expecting to get the grant, especially at 14 ... I just didn't think that at 14 they would give me \$1,500," she said.

But FACTOR did. And in doing so Rutledge was reassured that she was doing the

"right thing" in pursuing a career in music.

"It just kind of confirmed that what I was doing was good," she said.

The "pop, rock with a little bit of punk" album includes all original material by Rutledge and was produced and



Pinkies up

Hope and Dale MacCrostie enjoy high tea at the Kincardine Legion Wednesday following a celebration of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth, who with 63 years on the throne is Britain's longest reigning monarch. (Barb McKay photo)

"It's probably my favourite message of all the songs. That's the one about kids and how we have to put up our best fight to be ourselves and make our way through the world. So that was the main idea I wanted to get across. So it just made sense to make that the title," she said.

Proceeds from the launch party and silent auction will go towards the Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey as it not only does important work, Rutledge said, but is also connected to themes in her album.

"The whole idea of the women's house is to support women who have gone

interpreted to be about fighting through all kinds of struggles.

"It can be taken as for women or for anybody that's been through tough times and needs help, and they need to put up their best fight

first album, she will continue to apply for grants and continue to write and sing and perform. And who knows, maybe even make a music video for one of her songs.

"That would be very awesome," she said.



Troy Patterson/Kincardine News

The 164th Kincardine Fall Fair enjoyed three days of hot weather, kicking off with Hailey Allen being named the 2015 Kincardine Fall Fair ambassador on Friday. Pictured above: L-R: Kincardine's 2015 Ambassador Sadie Shewfelt passed the crown to Allen, alongside ambassador candidates Christine Benney, Kelsey Padfield and Lara Clubb. Pictured right: Saturday's Kincardine Fall Fair Parade had an excellent turnout, with dozens of floats and displays, like Bruce Shriners Trail Riders Frank Eagleson and Kevin MacKay showing their stuff. See photos and video from all three days at kincardineneews.com - follow us on Facebook and Twitter.