



# Arts & Entertainment

## Alysha strives for success in entertainment industry

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
The Champion

For Alysha Kobow, 'normal' isn't exactly, well, normal.

One day she might be teaching children at a performing arts summer camp she started. On another, she might be flying out-of-country for a dance competition. And of course, there's always homework for her on-line high school courses.

For anyone else, that would be enough. But not for this 17-year-old, who, for the past 11 months, has also been recording her first CD. Now added to the rural Milton resident's days are trips back and forth to a Burlington recording studio, following a schedule capable of making anyone's head spin. To Alysha, her busy life — and latest project — is all part of her motto: 'Don't do it if you can't give it your all.'

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," she said of her CD. "If I don't give it all I've got, it's not worth doing."

Alysha expects the CD to be finished

some time next month.

Unabashedly country, the five-song CD features songs written — both lyrics and music — by Alysha herself, with music composed by her producer, Steve Ashley. Taking full advantage of Canadian talent, the CD features several songs with guitarist Bob Lucier, who has played for the likes of Shania Twain and Adam Gregory.

Alysha said her sense of accomplishment doesn't depend on how well the CD does once it's completed.

"Even if it goes nowhere, at least I can still say I did it," she said, adding, "I don't want to look back on my life with regrets."

She doesn't see herself as much different from others her age, Alysha said. In fact, in the humble teen's estimation, the only difference is she does what others only dream about.

To complement the CD, Alysha will soon be working on two music videos with local student filmmaker Jason Boles.

As Alysha looks forward to the completion of this project, she's well aware that an April car accident could have squelched all her dreams in an instant.

On April 7, her car rolled over three times as she swerved into a ditch to avoid a head-on collision with a vehicle travelling in the wrong lane. She suffered a major



injury to her left wrist and hand as well as cuts, bruises and a sore neck and shoulder.

"I was told if I hadn't been wearing my seatbelt, there's a big chance I wouldn't be here today. It was an extremely scary situation."

Although the incident resulted in just a minor time delay for the CD as she recovered, the teen said it's responsible for a major change in her perspective on life.

Although she'd already been working on the CD at the time of the accident, Alysha said she continued the project with an

added sense of urgency, realizing nobody knows which day is going to be his or her last. "I thought, 'If I don't get this done, now, who knows, I might never do it'."

Behind Alysha's shining success as a dancer, former cheerleader and singer, stands her proud mom, Sally.

"She makes sure I practice every day and stay on the (right) path," Alysha said, adding, "She's the first to hear any of my songs."

Ms Kobow said she couldn't imagine not supporting her daughter's dreams. And she realized early on that would be a big part of her job as Alysha's mom.

"She's wanted to be on stage since she was three," Ms Kobow said. "She loves to make people happy."

This summer, Alysha will be performing at a number of southern Ontario fairs and rodeos. And, as has always been the case, her mom will be somewhere in the wings,

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To say Alysha Kobow keeps busy would be a huge understatement. The 17-year-old splits her time between teaching young performers, competing at various dance meets and recording her first CD.

Photo by **GRAHAM PAINE**

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