

## Proceeds from concert to help family of ill infant

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because no one could help us here," Mr. Papaioannou

But that requires money. Their recent trip to Boston cost about \$15,000, he said, and they have many medical expenses to look forward to.

Ms Danielli said easing the financial burden is a project the community's more than happy to take on.

"It's been absolutely phenomenal. This community blows me away," she said.

One of the performers at tomorrow's concert is local country singer Alysha Brooke — formerly Alysha Kobow — who has a big heart for children. Since the release of her debut CD 'Nuthin' but a Chevy' in November, the 18-year-old has been donating half her proceeds to Michael's family.

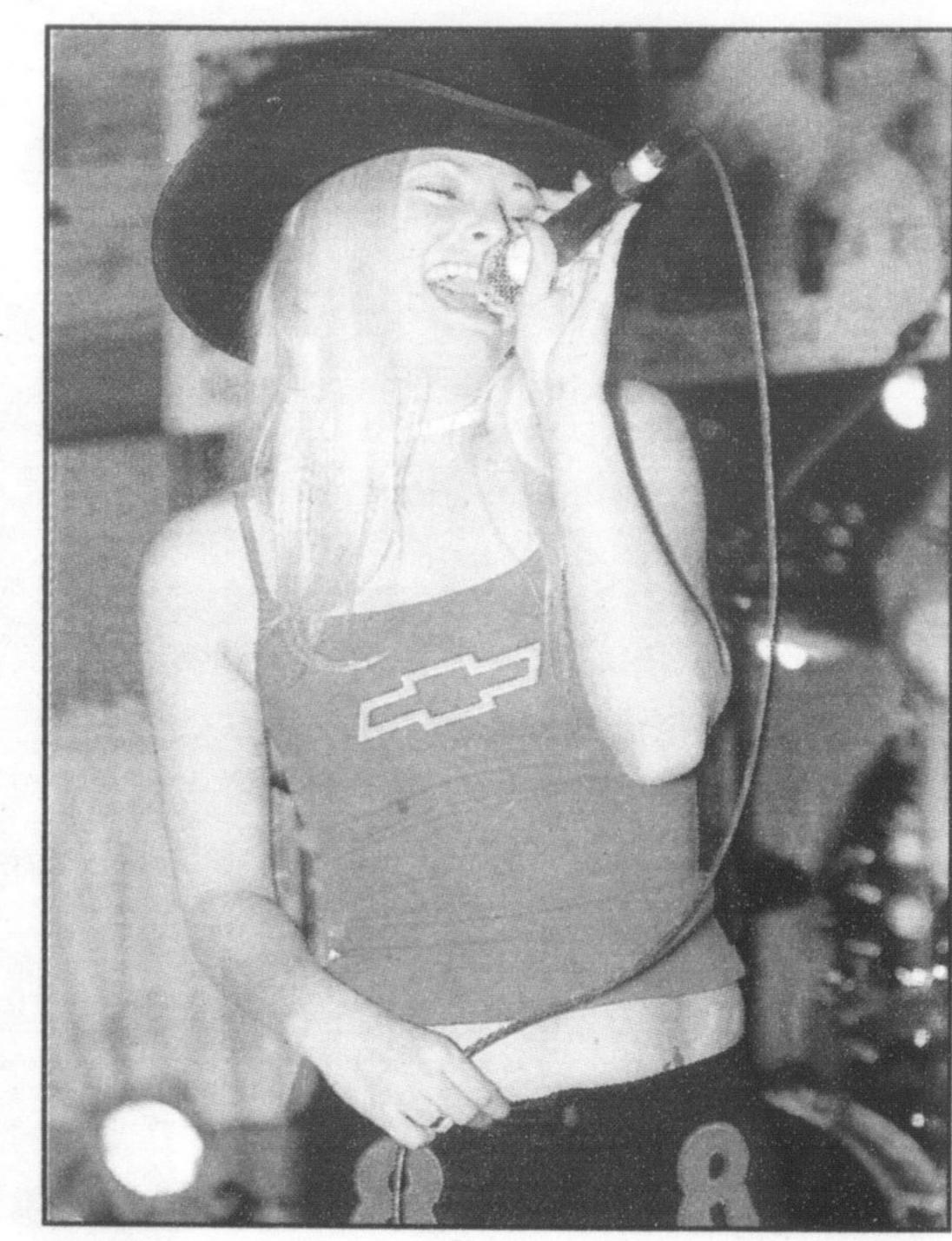
"I have always been a supporter of children's charities," said Ms Brooke. "This is one that is particularly near and dear to my heart. This night is a labour of love for me and my band."

Others who've made the event possible include Reg Cressman — general manager of Country Heritage Park — who offered the Gambrel barn for the night, the musicians providing the entertainment, and local caterer Allison Vaux, owner of Allison's of Milton, who's putting together the food for the buffet.

Ms Papaioannou said she and her husband have experienced a huge range of emotions since November. She said she tries to take things day by day, cherishing every moment she spends with her son.

"He's a great boy, easy to take care of," she said. "He's always been a smiler and a laugher. I describe him as my angel. If he's going to get certain parts of the disease, we'll deal with it then. He's so happy, it's easy to take it day by day."

In a way, she said, Michael's disease is a blessing, because it's caused them to make sure they don't take life for granted. And, it's opened their eyes to the beauty in people amidst life's ugliness. "The world is in a



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

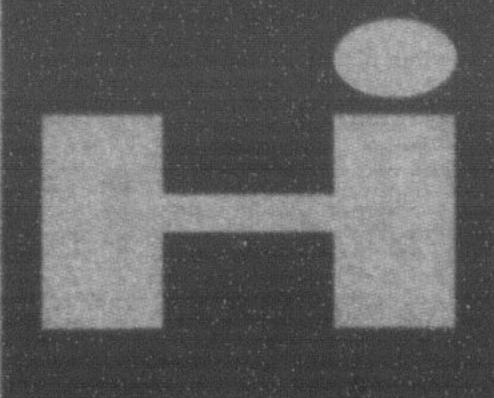
Alysha Brooke is among the performers set to take the stage at tomorrow's benefit concert.

devastating time," she said. "For people to still open their hearts — there are no words to thank the people who have gone out of their way (to help us)."

Cash donations toward Michael's treatment and travel expenses can be made at any Scotiabank to account no. 10652 0036188, the Michael Carl Papaioannou Fund. For more information on Lesch-Nyhan Disease, visit www.lndinfo.org.

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