

Bolton native to perform at North by Northeast festival

By Nick Fernandes

Skye Sweetnam, a pop and rock musician born in Bolton, is headed to Toronto to play at the North by Northeast (NXNE) live music festival this week.

She will play alongside almost 1,000 other artists in the week-long festival that will take place all across downtown.

"Growing up my house was surrounded by 13 acres of property," she said, talking about her childhood home in Bolton that formed her love for self-expression. "I was an adventurous kid. I would sing at the top of my lungs when I thought no one would hear."

She thanks the Bolton community for helping her form her own musical style.

"I was so isolated from the world of glamour and hollywood and Toronto," she said, fondly recalling her childhood for allowing her to find her own voice.

Her mainstream success came with her release of the pop single Billy S. But even before then, she found local recognition at some of Caledon's local venues, such as the Kate Moura Music Studio, where she built up her talents and performed for the community. Sweetnam is currently fronting the band Sumo Cyco as the singer under the stage name Sever. As Sever, she has put seven songs under her belt with an original self-directed music video for each. The band has already won accolades for best female fronted band at the 2012 Toronto Independent Music Awards.

With Sumo Cyco, Sweetnam said she has been moving further toward more hard rock, punk and metal influenced style than her previous album Sound Soldier.

Sumo Cyco's performance at NXNE will be the second time the band has participated in the music festival, they will be playing at Cherry Cola's N Rock & Rolla Cabaret Lounge near the intersection of Bathurst and Queen Street West, more than halfway through the run of the festival.