

Growing Together

Story and Photos by: Stephanie James

“My first reaction, was holy crap what am I going to do?”

For some, high school consists of homework, friends and who’s crushing on who. The only person you have to take care of is yourself. But what if you had a baby to look after on top of the stress that high school can bring? Some might give up and drop out, but not Emilie Martin.

Being the type of person who used to have no problem trying anything once, Martin says that having a child to look after has really smartened her up.

“I was 17 when I found out that I was pregnant,” said Martin. Never having been a real believer in abortion, Martin and her boyfriend Sam decided to keep their baby.

“Adoption never crossed my mind either, I couldn’t imagine not knowing what she looked like,” said Martin.

Martin gave birth to a baby girl on March 18, 2011 and named her Aislynn. During the begin-

ning stages of learning how to raise a child at 18, she found herself calling her mother almost every night looking for help and advice and wondering if she could come over to look after Aislynn so she could get some sleep.

“That has to be the hardest part, waking up constantly during the night,” said Martin.

Martin sometimes finds it hard that she currently can’t get a job since she has school to finish and would have to find child care for her daughter, which would mean giving up a lot of time with her.

“I want to finish high school so I can move onto college and get a good job so I can help provide for her properly,” said Martin.

The number of teen mothers across Northumberland County have spiked over the provincial average of 3.7 percent. In the town of Cobourg, Ontario where Martin attends school at the Cobourg District Institute East high school, the percentage of teen mothers is 7.6 percent.



Top - Emilie Martin (19) and daughter Aislynn Martin-Agnew (eight months).



Left - Emilie Martin tries to finish getting her eight month old daughter Aislynn ready to go for a morning walk.

Right - Aislynn Martin-Agnew reaching for her soother while her mother Emilie Martin plays with her 9 month old daughter's hair.



Left - Emilie Martin at the grocery store picking up baby formula for her sleeping eight month old daughter Aislynn.

Middle - Emilie Martin and her friend Page have a smoke in front of the CDCI East High-school in Cobourg Ont.

Right - Dorothy Noronha, a Teacher in the Teen Education and Mothering program at CDCI East Cobourg Ontario helps 19 year old Emilie Martin with her math work. Emilie is currently trying to finish her high school education to move on to be a child and youth worker.



Bottom - Aislynn Martin-Agnew watches from her crib as her mother, Emilie, tries to find clothes for her daughter to take to her grandmother's house for the night.