

Off to 'the Rock'

Members of Whitby school earn trip to national karate championships

By Shawn Cayley

WHITBY -- Four locals have earned a trip to 'the Rock' this summer.

Chris Burke, Nick Burke, Jonathan Lichtental and chief instructor Ed Docherty of the International Chito Ryu Karate and Fitness Karate School in Whitby have qualified to represent Ontario at the Canadian National Karate Championships July 13-15 in Newfoundland.

"They have all worked so hard for this, and it's a big deal," said Docherty on Wednesday.

Last Sunday, the final

of four qualification tournaments was held, and it was there where the students put on a spectacular display en route to earning their spot on the squad. The top two competitors in each division earned a spot at Nationals.

Nick Burke, a 19-year-old from Whitby, earned his trip in convincing fashion by capturing the gold medal in the brown and black belt 65-kilogram Kumite division for 18 to 20-year-olds. This marks the third time in as many years that Burke will be representing Ontario at nationals.

Another Burke will be going along for the ride, as Chris Burke put on an outstanding display, winning the bronze medal in Kata (forms) and the gold medal in Kumite in the 14 to 15-year-old, 60kg green to black belt division. Nationals will be quite a

thrill for the 14-year-old, marking the first time he has competed on such a stage.

Lichtental will be making his first appearance on the strength of his silver medal performance last weekend in Kumite. The second place finish qualified the 20-year-old for the men's black belt 65kg division, and, like Chris Burke, he'll be representing his province for the first time.

"This is quite an accomplishment for all three of these individuals," noted Docherty of his students advancing to nationals. "It's very impressive."

Docherty, who will also be making the trip, is slated to compete in the men's black belt 80kg Kumite division. In addition to that, Karate Ontario has presented Docherty with the Carmen Forgioni Memorial Cup for his contribution to the sport.

Staying true to form, Docherty was humble in regards to his award.

"I am honoured to receive this award from Karate Ontario," he said, while adding "I couldn't be happier about my students achievements. They work extremely hard and have great attitudes."



Submitted photo

From left, Ed Docherty, Jonathan Lichtental, Chris Burke and Nick Burke will represent Whitby's International Chito Ryu Karate and Fitness Karate School at the national championships in Newfoundland.