

Whitby club alive and kicking 10 years on

WHITBY -- Not many people get to do what they enjoy most for a living.

Ed Docherty is a notable exception.

In fact, it's the level of passion and enthusiasm that comes from loving the sport of karate so much that has made Docherty's club, the ICKF Karate School, so successful over the past decade.

Docherty, a Whitby resident and graduate of Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School, watched the club he started with seven students back in 2000 recently celebrate its 10th anniversary with now more than 100 on board for the ride.

"I love working with people," Docherty explains. "I get a real kick out of meeting different people and just interacting with

everyone, right from the four year olds all the way up to adults."

Docherty is a decorated competitor in the sport. A 4th Dan black belt and certified instructor, he competed in provincial, national and international meets prior to retiring from competition in 2007, shortly after winning the +75kg Kumite title at the 2007 World Chito Ryu Karate Championship (Soke Cup) in Norway.

Also an assistant coach for the Ontario provincial karate team, Docherty has passed on his knowledge to his students, as the more than 1,000 medals won by the club would attest.

"I believe if you treat everyone like a champion, they'll all be champions," he says. "I try to envision the students at their best and help them achieve that goal."



PHOTO BY WALTER PASSARELLA

WHITBY -- This group of four- to seven-year-old students opened the show as the ICKF Karate School celebrated its 10th anniversary with a show and party at Father Leo Austin Catholic Secondary School.