



SABRINA BYRNES / METROLAND

WHITBY — Marika Gumienny, Dylan Creaney, Jonathan Kondziolka and Chris Burke, from ICKF Karate School, all brought back medals from the national championships.

MARTIAL ARTS

Karate kids bring home six medals from nationals

Chris Burke leads the way with silver, bronze

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WHITBY — Four students of the ICKF Karate School in Whitby came home from the national championships in Quebec with medals to show for their efforts.

Chris Burke, the club's most decorated athlete, won silver in the 18-20 male +78-kilogram kumite division and bronze up a weight class in the +84kg division. He has now qualified for the Junior Pan Am Games in Brazil.

Marika Gumienny also delivered a pair of

medals, both bronze, in the 14-15 female -54kg kumite division, and in team kumite.

Jonathan Kondziolka won silver in 14-15 male team kumite, and Dylan Creaney took bronze in 16-17 male -68kg kumite.

"I definitely knew it was possible, but at this level everyone is so good. It's a matter of having a good day," said coach Ed Docherty, of the club's impressive medal haul. "They're performing at a high level, but their attitude also matches, which is really good."

It was Burke's sixth appearance at the national championships, while Kondziolka was there for the second time. Gumienny and Creaney were making their debuts.

"All of them have a bright future," said Docherty. "At this tournament, they all had a special moment. When they needed to win, they all had that sort of special moment, which is really great."