

Candice Timbers skating up a storm

BY DOUG HARRISON

With 22 medals and a trophy scattered in her bedroom, 10-year-old skater Candice Timbers makes a strong case for anyone doubting her abilities and aspirations of winning a medal some day in the Olympics.

Candice, of Rockwood, skates out of the Acton Skating Club and finds herself skating six times a week.

"She's a very busy lady," exclaims Candice's mother, Nina, who adds her daughter also skates in Guelph and Georgetown.

Candice makes the jaunt to Georgetown on Sunday mornings from 8:30-11:30. On Mondays, her graceful skating is performed in Acton from 7-9pm. Thursday, she practices from 7pm until 10 and Friday after school from 4-6pm. Candice isn't done yet, either.

She's even entered the teaching ranks, helping little can skaters with elements and footwork on Mondays and Wednesdays. Monday she works from 4:50-5:35pm and two days later at 4pm until 4:45.

Believe it or not, the little workhorse has even had time to excel at a couple of recent competitions.

Three weeks ago at the Uxbridge Invitational, Candice finished first (of eight) in her flight and second overall. She placed third in the dance program, fifth in the solo and eighth in dance.

Successful with most of her jumps—the axle double toe and double sow—Candice was only outdone by her good friend, Acton's Cara McGilloway. It's easier to handle defeat when it's at the hands of a

friend, says Candice.

In a competition held in Milton and Erin Mills two weeks ago, Candice was bumped early and said it was because of tough competition.

Cindy Currie, who has taught Candice for the past three years, involves her pupil in the freeskate, elements, dance, similar pairs and showcase programs. The pairs requires Candice and a partner to do the same program together, while the showcase has her dress as a character for a particular theme and perform with the aid of a prop on occasions.

"I like the (similar) pairs the best because I can partner up and it's more fun."

Candice admits Currie has played a tremendous role in her improving from an eighth to a second place showing at the Uxbridge Invitational in just three years, admitting "she makes me feel good about myself."

Candice's practice sessions cover body movements, music, a lot of artistic (use of hands, facial expression) work, muscle stretching and imagination.

Candice rates the Uxbridge Invitational and a competition in Sarnia a few years back, as her most memorable moments. "Uxbridge because I got a trophy and because I've moved up every year I've been there," she said.

In Sarnia, she donned a new dress, had a new solo, new jumps and as a result, finished atop the flight.

Nina thinks her daughter's involvement in skating is the best thing



FUTURE OLYMPIAN? Candice Timbers continues to be in the spotlight of Acton figure skating as she shows off her winnings of six years on the ice — 22 medals and one trophy, which she won at the recent Uxbridge Invitational competition. (Doug Harrison photo)



McGilloway qualifies to represent skating club in Scarborough

MEDAL FORM: Acton Skating Club's Cara McGilloway, 9, above, is on her way to the Central Ontario Section Interclub Championships (COSSIC) in Scarborough on March 5-7. McGilloway qualified for this following a first-place finish in Preliminary Ladies Freeskate at the Interclub competition held in Milton and Erin Mills two weeks ago. (Doug Harrison photo)

for her.

"I think (figure skating) is great for kids," said Nina. "It matures

them, teaches them respect and you meet a lot of people from all over (the province)."

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