



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Alex Fragiadakis of Richmond Hill is a member of the Skyriders Trampoline Place in Thornhill. Her club can now boast five Olympic after Karen Cockburn of Stouffville and Jason Burnett won silver medals in Beijing earlier this week. Ms Cockburn also has a bronze and silver medals from the past two games and teammate/husband Matt Turgeon won a bronze in 2000. Another teammate Rosannagh MacLennan also competed in Beijing. It was her first Olympics.

STOUFFVILLE'S OLYMPIC MEDALLIST INSPIRES ATHLETES AT TRAMPOLINE CLUB

Karen has kids flying high

BY CAROLINE GRECH
Staff Writer

It's just a non-descript brown building on the outside.

When you enter, the first thing you hear is the bounce of young athletes reaching great heights on several trampolines lined up inside a 3,000-square-foot gym.

Some of the trampolinists are horizontal, some vertical and others perform somersaults as they emulate their heroes who are competing in Beijing.

The athletes working out Tuesday morning have new dreams after watching Karen Cockburn and Jason Burnett win silver in trampoline at the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Both are members of the Skyriders Trampoline Place on Leslie Street in Thornhill.

The place was still buzzing with excitement after the medal wins.

But this trampoline club isn't just your average club.

In addition to Ms Cockburn and Mr. Burnett, the club has produced Matt Turgeon, a bronze medalist at the 2000 Games in Sydney and Rosannagh MacLennan, who competed in her first Olympics this year.

For Bethany Gee, a trampolinist for seven years, seeing Ms Cockburn win a medal was an inspiration.

"It was amazing. Her routine was



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amazing. She deserved it," Ms Gee said. "I get to see her train everyday so I know what it takes to get to that level."

Ms Gee, who hopes to compete at the Olympics herself, spends eight hours a week on the trampoline and hits the gym twice a week.

Longtime club coach Alan Zuckerman describes the wins by both Mr. Burnett and Ms Cockburn as "too emotional to work".

"I have to be at home alone to watch it. My neighbours know to shut the windows when it's on.

"We didn't know what to expect because you can have a good day or a bad day.

"They train so hard and they have 20 seconds

to do it."

Ms Cockburn's nickname at the club is The Silent Warrior and Mr. Zuckerman says it suits her.

Colin Heppell, 14, of Newmarket, also appreciated the medal wins.

"I thought it was pretty cool," he said, adding maybe one day he could do the same.

Alex Fragiadakis was also wowed.

"It's really cool because you know them," said Ms Fragiadakis, 17.

The club has operated since 1990 and has about 320 members.

Program co-ordinator Helen Saari was still on a high the morning after Ms Cockburn's performance.

"I could have fainted five times watching," Ms Saari said, laughing.

But the medals represent much more than just a thrill, Ms Saari said.

"One of the moms at the club was telling me after Karen got the silver, her son turned to her and said, 'Mom, I know what I want to do now. I want to go the Olympics and win a silver in trampoline,'" Ms Saari said.

It's not like the club is lacking in popularity as it has waiting lists for both competitive and recreational programs. But Mr. Zuckerman anticipates even more interest, thanks to the high profile the sport has received during the Olympics.

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Main St. construction cancels car show

A large September tradition in Stouffville won't take place this year.

Motorfest, which has drawn more than 750 custom, antique and classic cars to the grounds of Novopharm, has been cancelled this year due to the re-construction of Main Street.

It was billed as "the largest free classic car show in Ontario".

Proceeds went to Teen Challenge Canada.

For more information, go to motorfest.ca

Talent show fundraisers at Latcham Hall

The stage at Latcham Hall in Stouffville will be alive with local talent Wednesday night.

The Family Quarles and Friends will present two talent shows in support of rural school buses for arts students in York Region.

The shows begin at 7 and 9 p.m. A silent auction will run from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$10.

For more information, call 905-642-3645.

Mennos, Markham try again Thursday

The Stouffville Mennos and Markham Majors hope to play an Oshawa City and District Fastball League game Thursday in Memorial Park.

Last Thursday's game was postponed due a player shortage on the Stouffville side.

Game time is 8:30 p.m. on the main diamond of the downtown Stouffville park.

For more information, go ocdfl.ca

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