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Etobian fares well at provincial synchronized swimming championship

BY LISA RAINFORD

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The third time was a charm for Etobicoke's own Kathaleen Carpenter, a synchronized swimmer with the Olympium Synchronized Swim Club. Carpenter captured another provincial title earlier this month, bringing home a gold and two silver medals in the 12 and under provincial synchronized swimming championships in London.

"This is the third year in a row she's won something," said her mother, Denise. "She's pretty excited."

Carpenter beat out 27 competitors from across the province to win the solo event and claim the provincial championship gold medal. She also brought home a silver medal from the figure competition and along with duet partner Sachel Robarts, garnered a silver medal in the duet competition.

She earned a gold year last year in the duet event with partner Sofia Kokolakis and two years ago when she was crowned the provincial champion in the 10 and under solo event.

"I thought I did really well," Carpenter told The Guardian, reflecting on her success. "I felt it was the best I'd ever swam."

Carpenter has been synchronized swimming since she was seven years old. It's a passion of hers.

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"I love to be creative and express myself," she said.

However, it's no easy task.

"It doesn't come easy to me," she confided. "I have to work hard. Of all the events, figures is the hardest. In figures, you have to go really, really slowly and hold the positions for a long time."

Carpenter trains five days a week for three hours each day - and sometimes on the weekend. She is enrolled in the high performance program at Hollycrest Middle School where she is in class for half the day and then pursues her sport for the other half. From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., she's in the pool.

The Olympium Synchronized Swim Club claimed nine provincial titles this year, including the gold medal in the 15 and under team event at the national championships in New Brunswick this year.

"This hasn't happened in 20 years," said Denise. "We have many things to celebrate in the club."

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