

Synchro swimmers back in top form as new season underway

DESIREE FINHERT
OBSERVER STAFF

Last summer's stellar season may have lapped the ante for a regional synchronized swimming club but winning medals is still a day at the beach.

After completing the 2005-06 season with multiple gold- and silver-medal wins, athletes on the Waterloo Region Synchronized Swimming Club (WRSSC) were forced into a higher competitive tier. The move didn't faze them at their first meet of the year, the 2006 Lisa

Local girls continue to win despite being bumped up to more competitive level

Alexander Figure Meet in Etobicoke Dec. 3.

About 15 clubs from across Ontario brought some 475 swimmers to the pool for gruelling competition. The meet resulted in 13 trips to the podium for the regional athletes, including four local girls.

Despite the team's many top showings, advancing into a higher competitive pool was nerve-wracking for the teams.

"We don't know, going in, where they were going to stand - where their skills are in relation to the other girls," Tier 5

coach Carrey Brooks told the *Observer*. "So, we've been training really hard in hopes that their skills will be as strong as last year's in the new level - and they have been."

To prepare, the Tier 5 team has been practicing since late August for a string of competitions still to come.

Danny Flores' 1950s saxophone hit "Tequila!" sets the Caribbean Vacation theme for the team's three-and-half-minute water ballet performance.

Moving up a level puts the swimmers under a more powerful microscope, as

judges look more closely at bodies being thrust out of the water, walk overs and, as always, perfect synchronization.

Even with the extra scrutiny, the team found success.

Wellesley's Delaney Klein placed second in her new division (Tier 5, 14 and over) with a score of 60.75.

One tier down, Maryhill's Katharine Hoffman also placed second (Tier 4, 13 and under) with a 58.3335 score. She placed fourth in the Tier 4 overall division.

"Delaney is the hard-

est worker I know," said Brooks. "She puts her mind to something and she doesn't stop until she's achieved it. She will be chasing down that first-place finish.

"Katherine's control has improved tremendously since the start of the season," she added. "She's really learned body awareness which has really helped her a lot."

Wellesley's Rhianon Klein grasped fourth place (Tier 4, 14 and over).

"Rhianon has a natural ability for synchro," said the coach. "Everything comes naturally to her.

You throw her in, you ask her to do something and she can do it right away."

And one of the team's newest additions, Conestogo's Jordan Shantz placed fifth her first time competing (Tier 1).

"A fifth-place finish in a first-year competitive [meet] is a really big deal," said the coach.

The club also won three gold, two bronze, three additional fourth-place, and an additional fifth-place finish.

The WRSSC's next meet will be a provincial invitational at its home pool in Waterloo Feb 17.



Region of Waterloo

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES & SPECIAL PURPOSE BODIES

YOU TOO CAN HELP

Each year the Regional Municipality of Waterloo advertises for applications from the public and appoints citizens to various Boards, Commissions, Committees and other special purpose bodies required for a particular year(s) or Council term of office. These appointments give citizens of this Region, from a variety of backgrounds, an opportunity to volunteer and participate as a member of a Board, Commission, Committee or other Special Purpose Body.

Please note the terms of office for all Committees may be amended to coincide with the new four year term of Council.

Interested citizens and incumbent members are invited to apply for appointment to any of the following:

a) AD HOC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seven persons required for up to a **four-year term** ending December 31, 2010. The Ad Hoc Environmental Advisory Committee reviews environmental matters referred to it by Council of the Region of Waterloo and provides comments and advice on those matters. It would be beneficial for community representatives to have skills and demonstrated expertise with various environmental issues.

b) CYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Two persons required for up to a **four-year term** ending December 31, 2010. The RCAC advises on the Cycling Master Plan and Regional Official Policies Plan. The committee provides input regarding cycling facility construction, cycling policies and strategies, and increases public awareness and understanding of cycling issues.

c) ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

One person required for a **one-year term** ending December 31, 2007 and **five persons** required for up to a **four-year term** ending December 31, 2010. Persons with knowledge, interest, professional and/or technical qualifications in environmental issues related to such disciplines and policy areas as biology, ecology, hydrology, forestry, agriculture, wildlife management and urban/rural planning.

d) HERITAGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Three persons required for up to a **four-year term** ending December 31, 2010. The Heritage Planning Advisory Committee (HPAC) advises on Regional heritage issues and policies in accordance with the Regional Official Policies Plan. The Committee also assists the Region in promoting Regional heritage, and in increasing public understanding of heritage issues.

e) KISSING BRIDGE TRAILWAY ADVISORY BOARD

Two persons required for up to a **four-year term** ending December 31, 2010. Persons from the public who represent local non-farming landowners and/or the local business community from any of the municipalities in which the Trailway is located are encouraged to apply. The Trailway Advisory Board is an advisory board to the County of Wellington and Regional Council.

f) PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

One person required for up to a **four-year term** ending December 31, 2010. Persons with a general knowledge of visual art forms who is a citizen of the Region of Waterloo and is interested in increasing the profile of public art in the community is required.

g) REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY / RAPID TRANSIT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Four persons required for up to a **four-year term** ending December 31, 2010. Two persons from the Public at Large, and two persons, one with skills and demonstrated expertise in the areas of business and one with skills and demonstrated expertise in education. Three persons required for a **one-year term** ending December 31, 2007, representing students at Conestoga College, the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University respectively. The role of the RGMS/RT Public Advisory Committee is to advise the Region on issues related to the implementation of the Regional Growth Management Strategy and the Rapid Transit Initiative. With the initiation of Phase 2 of the Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment (involving the evaluation and selection of technologies, station and route locations), Committee members will provide advice on issues related to the assessment of various alternatives, public consultation and land use planning initiatives.

h) SPECIALIZED TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Five persons required for a **two-year term** ending December 31, 2008. The Specialized Transit Services Advisory Committee will advise and provide assistance relating to the development of Special Transit Services policies and service that best meet the needs of the community.

i) WATERLOO REGION HOUSING OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The term of office will be up to **four years**, ending December 31, 2010 and require the following representation; **One person** residing in the townships of - North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot or Woolwich, **One person** residing in the City of Waterloo and **One person** residing in the City of Kitchener. These appointments will give citizens of the Region, who have a variety of backgrounds, an opportunity to volunteer and participate as a member of the WRHOAC.

The Advisory Committee provides input and information to assist Regional staff on a variety of matters that affect Waterloo Region Housing. This Committee will also provide guidance and assistance on recommendations that may originate from tenants, staff, or community members. It would be beneficial for community representatives to have a demonstrated knowledge in areas such as community housing programs, property management and community development.

Persons interested in serving on the aforementioned Committees must file an application with the Regional Clerk prior to 4:30 p.m. on **Friday January 5, 2007**. Application forms and Terms of Reference may be obtained from the office of the Regional Clerk or obtained by calling 519-575-4450 or emailing ctheresa@region.waterloo.on.ca.

Advertised vacancies on a particular Committee may be filled by incumbents whose terms have expired and therefore the number of actual vacancies may differ from the number of advertised vacancies.

Kris Fletcher
Director, Council & Administrative Services/Regional Clerk
150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4J3