

Karate master's national tour makes stop in Aurora



By Jake Courtepatte

Karate enthusiasts from across Canada and the Northeast United States were all ears for a rare opportunity Monday to learn from one of the best.

Master Meitetsu Yagi, a tenth degree Black Belt from Okinawa, Japan, stopped by the Aurora Montessori School as part of a special nation-wide tour. Yagi, the President of the Meibukan Hombu dojo, is one of the highest-ranking karate masters in the world.

Steve Armes, Director and Chief Instructor of Shoshinkan Martial Arts, organized the Aurora event.

"This is a remarkable and rare opportunity for serious, traditional martial artists to learn from, and train with, one of the very best teachers in the world," said Armes. "We have students from all over Ontario, Quebec and the U.S Northeast coming to Aurora for the seminar. I am very excited and honoured that we have been selected to host such a great karate master!?"

Yagi used his lifetime of experience to teach the few dozen invitees how to master their `Qi` (pronounced `chee`) or energy, in order to take their karate skills to the next level both physically and mentally.

Aurora Deputy Mayor John Abel, who opened the ceremony, commented on the difficulty of mastering the martial art.

"These people are some of the most physically-fit athletes out there," said Abel. "The level of determination you need for karate is amazing."

The eldest son of karate legend Meitoku Yagi, Yagi trained under his father for fifty years. He has lived, worked, and initiated dojos in the United States, Guam, Philippines, and Saipan, and now travels the world teaching seminars on his father's form of hard-style Gojyu-Ryu karate.

"Being chosen to host a man at his level of experience is really something else," said Abel. "It goes to show the diversity of culture we have in the area."