

Tour de Terra Cotta grows again

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

The ninth-annual Tour de Terra Cotta is expected to draw a record number of participants this year when cyclists hit the roads of Halton Hills and Caledon on Civic Holiday Monday.

Should the weather co-operate, the volunteer-run event could have more than 700 riders from across North American and as far away as Hong Kong and Italy on board for one of the six scheduled races, which begin with a 2-km youth time trial at 8 a.m.

\$7,500 in prize money will be up for grabs when the featured race, the 104-km adult elite event, starts at 1:30 p.m. and will be capped at 200 riders.

Roads in the area will be closed throughout the day to create a European-style road race with a central start/finish location to allow spectators to keep close tabs on the proceedings.

Last year's event drew 610 athletes and several hundred more spectators in hot and humid conditions.

Race founder Ted Webb of Terra Cotta celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year and the former Senior Olympics' champion will likely be the oldest in the field by entering the 52-km race with a group of his friends called "Team Ted."

The Tour de Terra Cotta has undergone a number of changes since it began in 2005, when only 54 cyclists completed the challenging course. It has now become one of the Ontario Cycling Association's most-anticipated dates on the calendar.

Race director Brad Hains said the infield in the start-finish line area has been revamped this year to accommodate more vendors and exhibitors, along with musical entertainment on hand for the holiday Monday crowd.

"When we changed race day to a long weekend, the OCA said we were making a mistake because in previous history, they've scheduled races for that weekend and nobody showed up," said Webb, who has competed in all

nine Terra Cotta races.

"But we took a stab at it. Everybody knew it was a longshot but it turned out to be a great move for us with the response we've had. The reason we have it on the holiday Monday is because the (Terra Cotta) Inn is closed so we have the entire area to ourselves."

Retired professional and national team cyclist Michael Barry of Toronto, who rode alongside now-disgraced superstar Lance Armstrong on the U.S. Postal Service team during the mid-2000s, will attend Monday's event to present awards for the youth races and to sign copies of his third book, "Le Metier," detailing the life of a cycling "domestique."

Proceeds from this year's event will be split between Caledon's Meals on Wheels program and the Terra Cotta Community Centre restoration project. Hains said organizers estimate they'll double last year's contribution of more than \$15,000. This year's title sponsor is Dimpflmeier Bakery.



Eighty-year-old Ted Webb figures to be the oldest competitor in the field on Monday for the ninth-annual Tour de Terra Cotta, a cycling road race he founded. Webb is pictured during last year's event.

Photo by John Bachmann

Jr. C Bulldogs finish off Wild

Four goals in the second period and four more in the third lifted the Halton Hills Jr. C Bulldogs to an 8-5 victory on Tuesday night in Acton to complete a three-game sweep of the Wilmot Wild in their best-of-5 second-round playoff series.

Mike Nicolucci, Adam Charalambides and Marty Burwell had two goals each for the top-ranked Bulldogs, who've lost just once all year and are 5-0 in the post-season. Conner Mayner and Parker Campbell also scored.

The 'Dogs now await the winner of the other Ontario Jr. C Lacrosse League East Division semifinal, in which Hamilton leads Caledon 1-0.



Tessa Cieplucha (left) turned in a Phelpsian-type performance at the recent provincial swim championships in Brantford, while sister Sophie is headed off to the University of Nevada-Reno on a Division I NCAA scholarship.

Ciepluchas pooling their talents

Georgetown sisters Tessa and Sophie Cieplucha have been successful in and out of the pool this year.

Fourteen-year-old Tessa won the 400m individual medley race and silver medals in each of the 200m IM, 400m and 1,500m freestyle events at the Swim Canada Age Group Championships in Montreal this past week, also tying for fourth in the 100m butterfly.

As well, Cieplucha earned five gold medals, a silver and a bronze at the recent Ontario Long Course Swimming Championships in Brantford and achieved two more senior national qualifying times.

The Grade 10 Georgetown District High School student touched the wall first in the 400m and 800m freestyle, 200m & 400m IMs and the grueling 200m butterfly. She placed second in the 200m breaststroke, third in the 200m back and fourth in the 100m back events and received the Swim Ontario Pro-

vincial FINA High Point Award for a female swimmer in the 14-year-old category.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Sophie has earned a full athletic scholarship to NCAA Division 1 University of Nevada-Reno, which she plans to attend this fall. Sophie will be a student-athlete member of the Nevada Wolf Pack Women's Swim team.

"I chose Nevada for the academic program, my new coach and my new teammates, who are some very fast swimmers. The majority of the girls on my team are from around the world, some from Germany, China, Brazil, Mexico and the U.S. I am really looking forward to learning more about their different cultures too," said the GDHS grad.

Sophie plans on studying international business with a minor in marketing. The Ciepluchas are members of the Brampton-based COBRA Swim Club.

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