

Annual Tour de Terra Cotta attracting record number of cyclists

More than 700 cyclists, from as far away as Hong Kong, Italy and across the U.S. and Canada, are going to be participating in this year's annual Tour de Terra Cotta cycling race Aug. 5.

The race, through the scenic hills of Caledon, has gained international attention since it began in 2005, when 54 cyclists raced across the finish line.

"We're thrilled the race is attracting more cyclists, from here, and around the world, each year," said Race Director Brad Hains. "It's a great opportunity for people to share their passion for the sport, and bring our community together. We're expecting well over 1,000 spectators."

This year, the race's founder and the most "experienced" of the cyclists participating, Ted Webb, turned 80.

"Cycling is my life long passion," he said. "My goal is to inspire others to take up the sport. I hope to stay in this race at least until I'm 90."

Webb will be leading Team Ted along the race course.

The Tour de Terra Cotta includes six cycling events for youth and adults of all levels, from the 8.68-kilometre youth road race, all the way up to the signature 104-km Tour de France style elite road race. The race features full road closures (no yellow line rule), chip timing, age group cash prizes, a Vendor Expo, barbecue and beer garden. The races run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and start on King Street.

A portion of the race proceeds will go to Caledon's Meals on Wheels, and Terra Cotta's Community Centre restoration project. The Tour de Terra Cotta is organized entirely by volunteers, and sponsored in part by Dimpfleier.