



Tour de Hans welcomes Gold Medalist Simon Whitfield to 100km race

(Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada – September 19, 2011) – The second annual Tour de Hans, presented by RBC, will be full of some golden moments as the riders line up at the start this year, because two-time Olympic medal winner Simon Whitfield will be lining up with them at the start of the 100km event. This highly popular event, which also includes a new 50km route for 2011, takes place on Sunday, October 2nd at 8:30 am. The race will begin and end at Hubertushaus (German-Canadian Hunting & Fishing Club) in Mannheim.

Riders and non-cyclists alike will get a chance to meet and be inspired by Whitfield at the Waterloo Inn the night before the race, when he will be the guest of honour at the Tour de Hans Celebrity Dinner, presented by Transit Petroleum.

Simon Whitfield is an Olympic triathlon champion, whose easy smile and exuberance has endeared him to Canadians.



Whitfield's gold medal win in the triathlon at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia is one of the most memorable performances by an individual athlete. He ranked thirteenth in the world, had not won a triathlon in a year and was not favoured to win. After a 15-man bike crash Whitfield was forced to stop – but eventually worked his way back near the leaders. He started the foot race in 24th place and resolutely moved his way up and eventually passed his competition in the last 200m to win the gold. His final time still stands as the fastest Olympic triathlon.

In the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England he claimed gold again. He ended up in 11th place at the 2004 Summer Olympics.

At the Beijing 2008 Olympics, Whitfield used his relentless drive to win a silver medal. Heading into the final kilometre of the run, he was a distant fourth. He burst into the lead with 200 metres remaining. Whitfield, exhausted by his effort to get back into the lead, was passed by the Jan Frodeno of Germany at the end of the race. He finished 5 seconds behind the German gold medalist.

His relentless dedication to his sport will make him a contender in the London 2012 Olympics.

The cost of registration is \$99 (+HST) before September 15th, or \$125 (+HST) after September 15th. After the race, participants will experience Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest hospitality, including a keg tapping, authentic Bavarian food, live entertainment, and plenty of Gemuetlichkeit. The winners of the 100km and the 50km will not only receive a prize package, including a VIA Rail pass for anywhere in the Windsor – Quebec corridor, but they will also be featured in the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade on Monday, October 10th.

Tickets for the Tour de Hans Celebrity Dinner, being held on Saturday, October 1st at the Waterloo Inn at 6:00pm, are \$55 for riders and \$65 for non-riders. Tickets and Tour de Hans Registration are available online at www.oktoberfest.ca.

The Tour de Hans, presented by RBC, is proudly sponsored by KOOL FM, IronWealth, Hematite, Jack Links, World Gym, Shred Tech, Ziggy Cycle Shop, Moser Landscaping, Extra Self Storage Ltd., Mel's Diner, 2D Studios and Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest.

Visit www.oktoberfest.ca to Register Online, or to purchase tickets for the dinner, and enjoy this one of a kind Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest experience!

About Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest

Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is a not-for-profit Bavarian festival founded in 1969 by a group of volunteers committed to contributing to the social and economic vitality of Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada twin cities with German heritage. Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival celebrates German heritage, food, music and festivities and is supported by more than 50 not-for-profit organizations. The festival is operated by eight year-round full-time staff, over 435 volunteers and 1,300 community and service club volunteers that stage the nine-day festival each October promoting a unique German cultural experience. As well as the \$21.1M annual economic boost the festival gives the local economy during the international festival, over \$1.5 million is raised each year by the not-for-profit organizations associated with Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest, one of the top three most recognized event brands in Canada.

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