

Caribbean People with Colin Rickards

## Remembering Trini cyclist George Terry

By Colin Rickards

Among the various ways which The Children's Breakfast Clubs raises funds for their essential work is through charity events, including a flagship one organized with the Ontario Cycling Association. It raises funds from competitors -- and their supporters -- in the Tour de University Heights, part of the Ontario Youth Cup Road Series, for which the prize is "The George Terry Cup," named in memory of a legendary champion cyclist from Trinidad.

This year, the Tour de University Heights will be held on Saturday, September 27, and will be centred on Driftwood Community Centre (4401 Jane Street). It is being organized in cooperation with The Children's Breakfast Clubs and the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department.

Sporting activities, and making sure that children from depressed areas have sporting equipment, are very important to The Children's Breakfast Clubs, and a week before the staging of the Tour de University Heights a drive is being made to collect good quality used equipment.

"Please donate your 'gently used' bikes, cricket, hockey and baseball equipment, ice skates, in-line skates, basketballs, soccer balls, skis and poles, etcetera," asks Rick Gosling, the President of The Children's Breakfast Clubs. "Please note, however, that helmets are no longer useful after a period of five years."

The All Sport Equipment Drive is being held on Saturday, September 20, and those with used sports equipment which they are willing to donate are asked to drop it off between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at any one of four locations.

These are: Woodbine Race Track, at 555 Rexdale Boulevard; WEGZ Stadium Bar, at 2601 Rutherford Road; Mohawk Race Track, at 9430 Guelph Line; or Greenwood Race Track, at 1661 Queen Street East,

This All Sport Equipment Drive is being multi-sponsored by The Children's Breakfast Clubs, TD Bank Financial Group, The Toronto Argonauts, ATTO Insurance, Local 113 of the Transit Workers' Union, Woodbine Racetrack, Mohawk Racetrack, Greenwood Off-Track Wagering, WEGZ Stadium Bar, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre's RBC First Office for Injury Prevention, The Toronto Police Service and ISECO Safety Shoes.

For more information, call 416-395-6475.

Trinidadian super cyclist George Terry, for whom "The George Terry Cup" is named, was born on November 30, 1918, and began his cycling career in 1939, spending three-and-a-half years in the Novice Division.

During this period, he won on 20 occasions and finished in the top three another 30 times, a record which earned him promotion to Elite Class (Division A), where he rode to a further 94 first-place finishes.

The Silver Medal which Terry won in 1946 for the 100 km Road Race in the Central American and Caribbean Games, held in the Colombia Caribbean Coast city of Barranquilla, was his greatest victory. He also won a Bronze Medal in the 4,000 metres Pursuit, and these were Trinidad and Tobago's first international cycling medals.

Terry went on to establish several national and international cycling records, ending his competitive career in 1952, after tabulating over 215 top-three finishes. He was among the first inductees into Trinidad and Tobago's Sports Hall of Fame.

“Unlike the availability of athletic funding today, resources were not available for George to participate in the World Cycling Championships or the Olympics during his peak,” Gosling says. “However, the records he established, and the respect he earned throughout his career, speak for themselves.”

Terry moved to Canada with his family in the late 1960s, and settled in Hamilton, Ontario. While holding down a full time job, and at the age of 50, he enrolled in night school to obtain a Certificate in Auto Mechanics.

He became the Official Patron of the Two Wheel Drive in 2004, and his photograph is prominently displayed on the Ontario Cycling Association's premises.

September 27<sup>th</sup>'s Tour de University Heights and “The George Terry Cup” event is also being multi-sponsored by some of those involved in underpinning the All Sport Equipment Drive, as well as by others: The Children's Breakfast Clubs, Toronto Fire Services, EMS Emergency Medical Services, Canadian Tire, the Toronto Police Service's 31 and 33 Divisions, the New Flow 93.5, TD Bank Financial Group and Nursing & Homemakers Inc.

Other sponsors are Woodbine Entertainment, The Toronto Argonauts, Ontario Black Vote Canada, GlobalMedic's David McAnthony Gibson Foundation, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre's RBC First Office for Injury Prevention, Cycle & Fitness Ltd., Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund, Mixis.com, Your Health Care Solutions Organization, Classic Cuisine Mobile Catering, ATTO Insurance, Mountain Equipment Co-Op and the Two Wheel Drive Program.

George Terry died on November 26, 2005.

“His accomplishments live on in the annals of cycling,” Gosling said. “This has resulted in this recognition by local and international media and the cycling fraternity.”

CITYtv's Dwight Drummond will be the MC for the event.

For more information concerning the Ontario Youth Cup Road Series, the staging of the Tour de University Heights or about “The George Terry Cup,” call 416-395-6475.