

# HaymanClassic

**A Youth Bicycle Race – May 25 - 27, 2018**



Rounding a tight corner in a criterium in Penticton

Chris Stenberg / Hayman Classic

## Young cyclists coming in record numbers

Local event draws top riders from Canada, U.S.

They're back! Scores of young athletes return to the South Okanagan this weekend for a cycling competition that has grown in size and reputation to become one of the best in Canada and certainly the top race of its kind west of Quebec.

Indeed, a record number of young riders – nearly 120 – are expected for this year’s edition of the Hayman Classic youth bicycle race, a tribute to the event’s reputation as a first-rate competition in a setting of incomparable beauty.

Most riders will come from British Columbia, but others will travel from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. The United States, too, will be represented by cyclists from Washington, Oregon and Montana.

“It’s coming together,” says Ron Hayman, the Penticton resident and former Canadian Olympic cyclist for whom the competition is named and who is passionate about providing a top-notch challenge for aspiring young cyclists. Here’s how it will unfold:

\* Morning of May 25: The first event is a time trial that starts in Okanagan Falls and ends at Painted Rock Winery in South Penticton after a punishing climb up Smythe Drive. Local MLA Dan Ashton will be on hand to award prizes to the top finishers. Start time: 9:15 a.m.

\* Afternoon of May 25: After lunch and a rest, competition resumes on the flawless asphalt of Area 27, Canada’s newest motor speedway east of Oliver. In this event, a circuit race, riders will do laps around the sinuous 4.8-kilometre track. The numbers of laps is determined by age categories – 11 to 13, 13 to 15, 15 to 17, 17 to 19. Start time: 4 p.m.

\* Morning of May 26: The sole event on this day is a criterium on Riverside Drive in Penticton, a race that features tight corners and open straightaways, and demands strong braking, acceleration and bike-handling skills. Start time: 8 a.m.

\* Morning of June 27: This is the Hayman Classic’s last event, a road race that this year has an element of mystery about where it will take place. Normally the race begins and ends in Oliver, with a demanding climb up Fairview Road and a dizzying descent down Secret Road.

But melting snow and high water this spring have made the course impassable at two points, forcing Hayman and race technical director Jeff Plant to seek an alternate course for use if needed.

What they found was an eager partner in Don and Michael Bartier, who offered their Bartier Bros. winery as a start and finish point for a multi-lap circuit that will run south toward Osoyoos and then north toward Oliver. Not surprisingly, Michael Bartier is a cycling enthusiast.

At this point it’s not clear which of the two courses will be used; problems on the Oliver-Fairview-Secret course may be remedied by race time. Either way, the start time is 8 a.m.

Beyond the four races of the Hayman Classic, this year’s competition is noteworthy for two other reasons. First, the Hayman Classic will also serve as the 2018 B.C. youth cycling championship.

The first B.C. finishers in the time trial, criterium and road race will don the B.C. champions' jerseys in those disciplines.

This is the third time in the past four years that the Hayman Classic has doubled as the provincial cycling championship, again a tribute to the professionalism and calibre of the event.

The second element of note – for the same reasons -- is that the Hayman Classic has caught the attention of Cycling Canada, the sport's national body.

When the Hayman Classic wraps up around noon on May 27, Cycling Canada will kick off a two-day Talent ID camp designed to identify and provide advice to young riders who hope to move up the amateur and even professional level. There will be plenty of riding, too, including a race up Carmi Avenue.

This year marks the fourth year of the Hayman Classic, each edition better than the last. Hayman's biggest concerns at this point are the roads and the weather. Predicting the latter is risky but the outlook for the Hayman Classic is decidedly bright.



A first-rate cycling competition in a setting of incomparable beauty

Chris Stenberg / Hayman Classic

## *OPTIONAL SIDEBAR*

### Young fun on two wheels – for free!

Does your son or daughter ride a bike but would like to learn more? If yes, you might consider the special iRide Expo scheduled for the morning of May 26 in conjunction with the Hayman Classic.

The iRide program is an initiative of Cycling BC, the provincial cycling association. Through iRide, it helps young riders develop their cycling skills and boost their confidence on two wheels.

The iRide Expo on the morning of May 26 will be held in Riverside Park in Penticton near the criterium course for the Hayman Classic. The event is free but enrolment is limited and you must register. For full details, go to: <https://cyclingbc.net/event/iride-05-26-2018/>

More advanced riders looking to improve their skills might consider a three-day cycling camp in August sponsored by the Axel Merckx Youth Development Fund. For details on this excellent event, go to: <http://amydf.org/about-amydf/>.

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