

Triathlon ready for changes

by Lisa Curtis
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OCONOMOWOC — A change of course will give the Town and Country YMCA's 11-year-old triathlon a new feel this year.

Hundreds of athletes who have become intimate with the curves and

slopes of the old path will re-adjust when the race is held in Ottawa Lake Recreation Area of the Kettle Moraine State Forest July 17. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m.

As the race has grown in popularity each year, its path through the busy streets of the city has become

increasingly dangerous, said Ron Schields, one of the organizers of the event.

But there are mixed feelings among some of the athletes who have participated in the event since its beginning.

"I kind of liked it where it was," said Jim Brown, who has missed only one meet since 1983.

Brown, a 68-year-old town of Concord resident, also competes in a mini-competition during the triathlon each year. He and a fellow triathlete hustle each year to see who registers first, and ultimately gets to wear the No. 1 during the race. Brown has reigned for the past two years.

This year's race will begin with a quarter-mile swim in Ottawa Lake, followed by a 10-mile bike ride and a three-mile run through Ottawa Park.

Suelyn Schellpeper-Rohrer, an avid biker and triathlete, said the bike course will make the triathlon more challenging this year.

"It's definitely been an entry level race before," Rohrer said. "Now I'd say it's one step up, to maybe an advanced beginner."

"The part I liked is that it was local," she said. "It will not have that local atmosphere now."

Schields predicts the race will be more enjoyable for spectators because they can see it all in one area rather than trying to follow the bikes and runners through the winding streets.



Enterprise file photo

One of many participants in the 1991 Town and Country Triathlon receives a time check after completing the swimming portion in Silver Lake. This year's event will be contested over a new course in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.