

End to End Hike Diary: Hike 2

How many hikes can say that they will take you on a route right past a home of a Leprechaun? More about that a bit later.

May 1st, 2005 saw 18 hikers turn out for the second hike of the 2005 End-to-End hike along the Rideau Trail from Ottawa to Kingston. This part of the hike started at Moodie and Corkstown road and ended at Fallowfield Road, a distance of 15.9 KM's. As you can see from the picture here, the hikers were an enthusiastic group who were well prepared for the weather of the day.



Our hikers experienced a wide range of weather. It was a cool 10 degrees Celsius with some sun, lots of clouds and even the occasional rain shower. However, with the right clothes and foot wear, the hikers had an enjoyable trek.

Our leaders for the hike were Shawn Hutchinson and Don Grant. They set a fair pace that was just right for the group. All stayed in site of each other for the entire day. As is often the case in hiking, the early challenge was to get everyone to the start of the hike and also have transportation arranged at the end of the day's hike to take people back to their transportation. Car pooling was organized amongst the hikers and they were off by around 10:00 am.

Appropriate footwear was rewarded early on as there was lots of water on the trail. Dry feet resulted from the right footwear – soggy feet from the wrong choice. Good support was also rewarded because the hikers encountered limestone, Nepean sandstone and Ice-Age eroded rock that had to be navigated. No turned ankles or blisters were reported.

Some of the areas that are hiked through are protected lands. During this hike, the hikers went by an area that had been protected from deer in order to protect the vegetation.

I reported that a visit was made to a Leprechaun's home. One must look carefully but at one point along this part of the Rideau Trail, just 15 metres off the actual trail, one can observe a home that has been built either buy or for a Leprechaun. As you can see if you look closely at the picture, the hikers were lucky enough to catch the Leprechaun home as they approached the home. After a short visit, the hikers went on their way. The home is still there awaiting the next visitors.

