

End to End Hike Diary: Hike 5 (“Mud & Mosquitoes”)

The fifth End-to-End hike took place on Sunday, May 29, 2005. This was the hike from Kettles Road to Roger Stevens Drive End-to-End. This hike took place entirely in the Marlborough Forest – no highway or road walking this time.

There were eighteen hikers who came out for this relatively short (9.3 km.) hike. The hike got under way at about 1:15 p.m. after the shuttle bus from Rideau Bus Lines transported the hikers from the Cedar Grove parking lot on Roger Stevens Drive to the starting point just east of the railroad tracks on Kettles Road.

It was fairly warm (22 degrees Celsius) but the hikers were pelted with rain during the middle part of the hike. (What else is new!)

The hikers on this segment were challenged physically and mentally by the multiple crossings of small bodies of water on improvised log bridges. As you can see from the pictures below, the hikers had to concentrate on their footing a lot of the time! Unfortunately there were quite a few soakers before “somewhat drier” ground (a euphemism) was reached later in the hike. But by then the rain was more intense so folks had other things on their mind. (Wet conditions were promised and we delivered!)



Photo provided by Ron Hunt



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But this is one tough group and listening to them you get the feeling that they are just getting into their stride. The prevailing attitude is that “we can tackle anything after what we’ve been through on the first five hikes”. To quote Kathryn: “I know the end-to-end will start to be fun anytime now!”

And I think that everyone would agree that David Spector gets the award for the best soaker of the day!