

End to End Hike Diary: Hike 7 (“Reaching the 100 Kilometre Mark”)

The End-to-End hikers achieved a major milestone on this hike: at the end of the day they could say that they have walked 100 kilometres since leaving the Richmond Landing on April 30th. What an accomplishment!

Hike #7 took place on Saturday, June 26, 2005 and covered 17 kilometres of Trail from Gilroy Road to Matheson Drive (where the high tension power lines cross Matheson). This was another very sunny and hot day which tested the mettle of the fourteen hikers. And there were a couple of surprises en route which made the hike memorable.

Ruth Hutchinson was the hike Leader. She maintained a steady pace but ensured that the group stopped regularly to cool themselves in the shade and to take in refreshments. Ron Hunt was in attendance as the co-leader (replacing the ailing Peter Hawkins) and took up the “sweep” role. That’s Ruth in the centre in the picture below making sure everyone is happy and in good shape before carrying on.

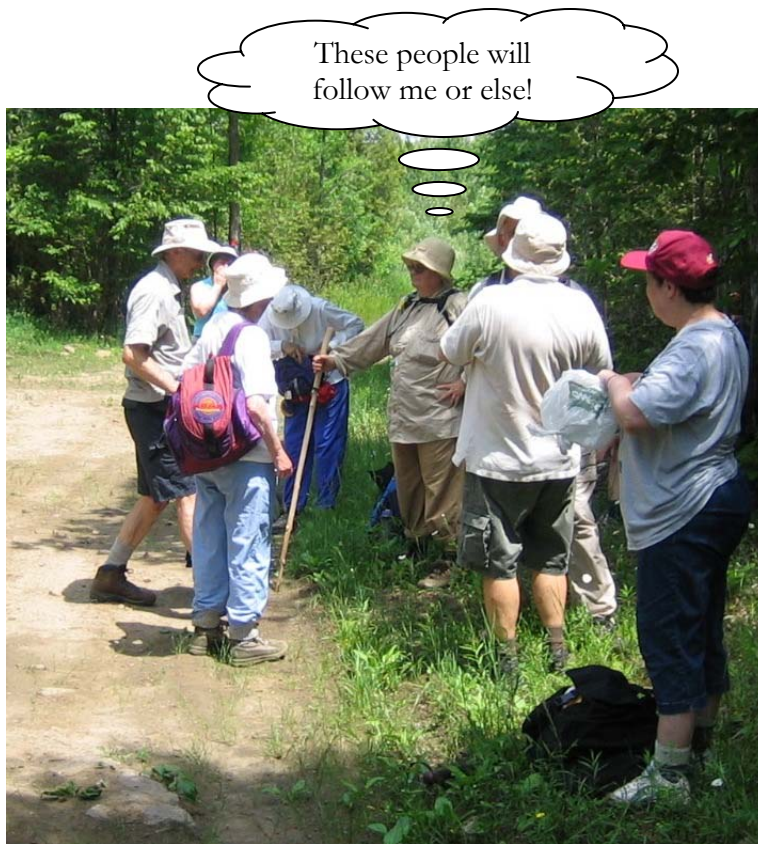


Photo provided by Suzanne Brown

The Trail started out a little wet and muddy but improved as the day wore on. And poison ivy was much in evidence throughout the day on the sides of the Trail.



Photo provided by Ron Hunt



Photo provided by Ron Hunt

The first surprise came when Peter Burbidge found some female *asparagus officinalis* at the edge of the Trail and pointed out that female asparagus has balls. (No guff! And who knew that there was male and female asparagus anyway.) In the photograph below, an amazed Maryetta listens as Peter provides the details.



Photo provided by Ron Hunt



Photo provided by Suzanne Brown

By this time the Trail was on higher and dryer ground and the hikers pressed on – pondering asparagus gender, the weather and other issues as they went. Along the way old farm buildings were observed – this one was seen along the side of McConnell Road.



Photo provided by Ron Hunt

The next surprise occurred during the lunch break at the edge of the Long Bush. A local Christmas tree farmer got his truck stuck across the Trail and asked for help in pushing it out. Peter, Ron and David Spector helped the farmer push the truck out of the ruts while Suzanne gunned the truck engine and fought off the advances of the farmer's Labrador dog! (Peter and Suzanne can be seen standing near the truck as the farmer prepares to drive away.)



Photo provided by Ron Hunt

And then out of the summer haze emerged a mysterious figure coming towards us. It turned out to be Jose Havet who had arrived late at the rendezvous and then decided to walk the Trail in the reverse direction in hopes of linking up with the group. In the picture below it is quite evident that Jose (on the far right) received a warm welcome.



Photo provided by Ron Hunt

As the group headed out on the open roads for the last 5 kilometres of the hike, the umbrellas came out. This was not because of the threat of rain but instead to try to get some relief from the blistering sun.



Photo provided by Ron Hunt



Photo provided by Ron Hunt

And so ended the Ottawa section of the 2005 End-to-End program. As they took off their packs and got ready to head home, everyone seemed to be pretty proud that they have covered one hundred kilometres to date.

Onwards to Smiths Falls and beyond!



Photo provided by Ron Hunt