

Hills Villes and Valleys 300 Report

by

Kathy Brouse

What a perfect day on the bike! Three riders started together at : Mark, Arthur, Kathy. Travelling west through Kleinburg to Old Baseline was pleasant and Mark commented how happy he was to see that Old Baseline had been repaved since his last visit. Once we got past the turn off to Inglenook, Mark took off over the steep rollers and into the horizon. We did get a brief sighting of him at the first control in Campbellville – he was preparing to leave as we pulled into the Bruce Trail Eatery. A group of Arthur's friends were waiting for him at the Eatery and accompanied us on that long 40km stretch of road northwest to Fergus. Strong cyclists the bunch of them and potential Randonneur members! At Fergus we took shelter from the burning sun, filled up on water and food. Then, east to Erin (not Elora, as I had mistakenly printed on the control card!), Belfountain, Cataract, and northeast over the rollers to the control in Orangeville. Once again we found shelter from the sun in an ice cream parlour, ate pizza and enjoyed a delicious mango, peach milkshake! The last 95km east through and is my favourite stretch of the route: picturesque farms and fields, cows, clouds, the smell of freshly cut hay. Still it was hot and I asked a kind woman who was watering her flowers to fill up my water bottles. She asked if I wanted a soaking with the hose and I was very tempted for a few seconds, but declined! The last stretch through Holland Marsh is great at this time of year: huge fields bursting with farm fresh vegetables. And, finally, in the twilight, the last stretch south down Jane St. to and Keele and Rutherford.

The Hills Villes and Valleys 300 remains one of my favourite cycles on the ride schedule. In my opinion, everyone should do this ride at least once, if not annually. This year it did not disappoint: great scenery, weather and camaraderie. Thanks Arthur for your company on the ride and best of luck at PBP!