

Wiarthon Willie Ride Report 2011

by

John Maccio

The Huron Chapter hosted the Wiarthon Willie 200k brevet this past July 9th. Although only four riders attended, Renato Alessandrini, Bill Little, Adriaan Verhust and John Maccio, we were treated to a day of warm weather and calm winds. A meet and greet before the ride was filled with conversation of the day ahead and actually pinching each other to see if we were dreaming as all we saw was sunshine and gentle breezes for the whole day. All that was needed, other than the mandatory essentials, was a smile.

Leaving at 7am we headed north out of town. With less than a kilometre into the ride we noticed a broken beer bottle on the road and as we all yelled "GLASS" we were totally unprepared for the event ready to unfold right before our eyes. It seems that an early morning onlooker may have misinterpreted our shouts and decided to give us all a treat. She turned around, bent over...lifted her dress... and showed us her #!! The four of us all rode by in shocked silence, unable to take our eyes off what was transpiring to the left of us. After regaining our composure we could not contain the laughter and it became the ongoing theme of the rest of the ride. Yes, we said, it was going to be a great ride!

Renato was under a slight time constraint and politely departed company to try to finish in eight hours. He looked strong as he pulled away, ready for the PBP. That left Bill, Ade and I together for the remainder of the ride. It did not seem like work as we enjoy conversation and seeing the sights of Grey County. We decided to stop in Kilsyth as we heard the butter tarts are legendary. We were not disappointed as we arrived to freshly baked tarts and coffee. The sugar rush gave us the extra push to Sauble Beach.

We heard rumours that Carey might meet us in Sauble and continue the rest of the ride but he phoned to tell us that he was a little too tired from doing the Relay for Life with his wife Donna the previous night. On we went and Bill kept yelling glass as we rode by the beach. Thank you Bill for your concern about our safety... it was much appreciated.

The day ended with some gentle hills leading to Wiarthon but the disappointment was that there was a street festival going on in the downtown core so we could not take full advantage of the downhill finish into Wiarthon. This was about the only slightly negative experience to a perfect cycling day as Adriaan and myself lost Bill Little and touched base later on thru the cell phone.