

How a Halton Outdoor Club Bruce Trail End-to-End Will Work

Who is your hike leader?

My name is Richard Reble. I have been leading hikes for about 30 years, mostly for Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club but, as of this year, Halton Outdoor Club as well. I have hiked the Bruce Trail end-to-end seven times. This time will be my eighth. I have also done end-to-ends of several other long distance trails of southern Ontario. Contact me anytime at reblerichard@gmailcom

Who gets to participate in *El Camino Magnifico*?

The answer is anyone who is committed to completing the entire Bruce Trail and can walk 3-4 km per hour for 16-19 km with occasional stops for rest, refreshment, and relief.

Possibly we might be able to occasionally invite drop-ins. If, for instance, I cap participation at 20 hikers but only 14 are committed to the end-to-end, we'd have space for 6 drop-ins.

What safety considerations will be in place?

- 1) Be a member of the Halton Outdoor Club (though this has more to do with liability claims than safety)
- 2) Bring your Ontario Health card to every hike.
- 3) Wear hiking boots and weather-appropriate clothing.
- 4) Bring plenty of water, a snack, and lunch.
- 5) Make sure in advance of the hikes that you are comfortable doing 3-4 km per hr for 16-19 km with occasional rest stops.
- 6) Stay behind the leader and in front of the sweep while a hike is in progress.
- 7) Be prepared to accept the orders of the hike leader in case of an emergency.
- 8) Bring a cell phone if you have one. They're sometimes useful in emergencies.
- 9) **What should I know in general about the hikes?**
- 10) 1) The car shuttle at the beginning of a hike starts at 9:00 a.m., but it is advisable for hikers to start arriving around 8:30 so the shuttle drivers can be appointed and people can stow their stuff in the trunk of the shuttle cars.
- 11) 2) The hiking pace will vary according to the number of ups and downs, the number of tree roots and rocks jutting up out of the ground, and unanticipated

obstacles. It will always be slow enough to exercise caution yet enjoy the scenery at the same time.

- 12) 3) **The whole project entails 50 hikes.**
- 13) **The 2019 dates for the first 8 hikes are Aug. 17, 24, Sep 7, Oct. 5, 19, 26, Nov. 9, 16, and 23.**
- 14) **In 2020, there will be 16 hikes, 2 each month from April to Nov. inclusive.**
- 15) **In 2021, there will be 24 hikes, 4 each month from May to Oct. Remember that by this time we'll be doing back-to-back Saturdays and Sundays so you'll only be away from home 2 weekends per month. The month of October is when we'll finish.**
- 16) **You'll note that 8, 16, and 24 only add up to 48 but I have reason to believe the Trail might be shorter than 900 km by that time.**
- 17) 4) **In so far as I can find suitably located parking spots along the trail, the majority of hikes will be under 20 km.**
- 18) 5) **All hikes will be posted on the HOC Events Calendar in a timely manner.**

Miscellaneous Considerations

- 1) You might want to share the driving with another hiker, though please restrict your car's occupancy to two people: the driver and one passenger. This a necessary condition to make the car shuttles for each hike work.
- 2) Sharing accommodations (motels, bed and breakfasts) with someone when we get further north will save you money, as will sharing the driving.
- 3) If ever there is a day that you need to be back home by a certain time, please don't ask for a guarantee about what time the hike will end. Too much can happen to make a mockery of predictions. If you absolutely have to be home by a specific time, it would be best to skip the hike that day and make it up another time.

4) Communications

- 1) As mentioned, I will be posting the hikes on the club calendar.
- 2) In addition, I will contact you as a group in advance of each hike through an e-mail called *El Camino Chronicles*. This is necessary because the club calendar provides limited space.

What can you expect from your leader in addition to leading our hikes?

- 1) For those who do not use GPS, I will be writing written directions for each hike. These are the kind of directions that work very well when you have a passenger to read them. I'll put them in *El Camino Chronicles*.
- 2) As we get farther north, I will be putting out lists of b&b's and motels that you might to contact. The list will consist only of the names of places and their contact information. I have no knowledge about whether the places are good or bad.
- 3) I hope you will register for the project but, if not, I wish you Happy Trails.
- 4) Finally, cheers to all and I hope to see you soon on our El Camino Magnifico adventure,

Richard Reble

(sometimes known as North Dakota Dick , sometimes just Dick and sometimes worse)