

Tour d'Essex 200 2011 Ride Report

by
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Seven riders, five of whom were doing their first brevet ever, set out on the Tour d'Essex. Adriaan Verhulst and I being the veterans, welcomed, Mike Masters from Sarnia, Garry Mayers from Port Franks, Brian Poel from Windsor and to truly make it an international affair we also had Tom Dusky and Amit Singh from Detroit Michigan. Tom and Amit were looking for a brevet that was close to home and search the RUSA website and found this 200k. The weather was better than great as the forecast had been calling for rain all weekend. The only hitch we had was when we were about to leave Tom realized that he had forgotten his helmet at home. We all tried frantically to come up with a solution and after 15 minutes it was decided that Tom and Amit would go to Canadian Tire and purchase a helmet. The irony of all of this was that Amit told me at the after ride dinner that Tom is one of the biggest helmet advocates in Michigan. So five of us pushed on with hopes of seeing Tom and Amit at the end. Even though we left 15 minutes late we could tell that by the first control we were making excellent time and not really pushing too hard. The wind seem to be in our faces for about 1/2 of the ride but was not much of a factor. At the lunch stop we finally received word that Tom and Amit were on course and had made their first control in time. After I passed the spot where I was hit last year I became a little angry as I found out it was only about 10k from the finish. To be that close last year and not be able to finish. Well this is a new year and before long we were back at the Second Cup. We then found out that Tom and Amit were only 30k behind us. They kept us informed with texts and photos. After we made arrangements to meet for supper at The Cook's Shop and there we reconnected with the Michiganders. It seems like they want to do more brevets but there are none to be found in southeastern Michigan. It looks like we may have to have a few more brevets with starts close to the Ontario/Michigan border. This gives me something to do in the off season as I try to come up with a few more routes for the 2013 season. The bittersweet of last Saturday was even though we had such great weather it was the end of the Ontario Randonneur's season. A beautiful ending to a wonderful season.