

Meldrum Bay Populaire

The Huron Chapter hosted their first Meldrum Bay Populaire ([See Map](#)) on the weekend of September 19/20, 2009. At this time of year, the ferry's required to get to and from Manitoulin Island are limited. Cyclists from Toronto, Sarnia, Goderich and Port Elgin all met in Tobermory for the 08:50 Ferry to South Baymouth.



Owen and Kathy Lead the Way!

Owen Beck and Kathy Brouse, led the riders onto the Ferry in Tobermory.. Carey/Donna Chappelle(tandem), Chad/Nanette Burkhardt, Kirk Hollohan and his wife DeDe Brown, Joe Hill, Sue Lyons, Liz/Bob Overduin and Bill Little. The ride to South Baymouth was a first for many of the cyclists and they all loved the scenery. After two hours, the riders got off the ferry and teamed up for the official start.



The Meldrum Bay Start

Con Melady and Cindy Fisher met up with the riders at Providence Bay after pedalling there on their tandem from the Meldrum Bay Inn. A GREAT THANKS to this couple for providing unlimited support on both days.

Saturday was the short ride -124km to Meldrum Bay, going west from South Baymouth along the southern part of the island to the most western point which is Meldrum Bay.



Nanette Burkhardt Leads the Riders into Providence Bay

About two thirds the way to Meldrum Bay, another cyclist was discovered and stopped long enough for some of the riders to have their pictures taken with him!



Chad, Kirk, Didi and The Man!

All cyclists arrived at the Meldrum Bay Inn at approximately 5 and 6 o'clock, enough time to drink some beers, shower and enjoy a delicious meal at the Inn. And, by the way, the Inn at Meldrum Bay is a gem of a place: cozy, comfortable with picturesque views. The hosts -Shirin and her husband, used to operate a restaurant in California before making the move to Manitoulin!

The history of Meldrum Bay, from a thriving sawmill, fishing and logging town at the beginning of the last century to now, is another interesting story, complete with tails of wealthy families, great stashes of prohibited alcohol hidden to this day in unknown coves, and even, Al Capone is said to have stayed in room #2!!

Although a number of riders decided to call it a night after a full day of cycling... spending some time in the hot tub...and an incredible dinner ... were unable to deter Bill Little from partying and entertaining folks with his harmonica playing...until 1 am, as the story goes..when Carey chased his buddy around and was able to grab the harmonicas and end the concert!!

Day 2 was great! A longer ride -157 kms, through Evansville and Mindemoya, across the top and eastern part of the Island, turning south to South Baymouth. Some riders got off to a 7 am start and some continued to enjoy the cozy comfort of the Inn.



Seven out of 15 Make the 7am Start

Donna and Carey had a great conversation with Shirin (the owner of the Inn) and fortunately Donna paid attention to the details of the conversation (Shirin's from Iran and offered to join them 5-10yrs from now...once the country is safe enough to visit!) Carey was busy eating and missed the details about when such a trip would be possible and started planning the trip a year from now. Fortunately Donna filled in the details with him a few days later!

Highlight of the day for some of the riders was coming across the flock of Sandhill Cranes south of Evansville. The big flock flew up in a group honking and squawking as only Sandhills can do. Ask Liz about the Sandhills, she was very impressed with their unique chorus! The day continued pleasantly and all the cyclists met at the ferry for the 15:50 departure to Tobermory. WELL...NOT ALL OF THE RIDERS...



Awaiting the Ferry Home

After getting on the 1550hr Ferry to Tobermory, the cyclist gathered to discuss what a GREAT RIDE they had and suddenly noticed Joe and Sue staring at the last Ferry of the day....from the dock... as the Meldrum Bay Cyclists headed home without them...

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR!!!