

# Carden Plains 300km Ride Report 2011

## How wet can you get?

*by*

*Kathy Brouse*

There are only two words to describe the Carden Plains 300km ride yesterday, very wet! Looks like Linda, Liz and I spent a longer time in the rain than the guys on the ride, but if that made us more wet I do not know. It's a puzzle, if you are already completely wet, do you become wetter? Probably not, just more chilled to the bone which is what we were by the time we got back to Markham. We looked for hot soup in Orillia to take the chill off a drizzly afternoon, and later a bowl of hot, steamy chilli in a pub in Beaverton to warm us up for the last leg of the journey. The rain really set in when we left Beaverton at 6pm and continued that way for another 4 hours. Despite being so cold we had a good laugh while waiting in the line up at Tim's. Liz said I looked a sight and she made a certain reference to homelessness because of my wet clothes, mud splattered face and clutching my little Ziploc bag of change.

It seems that Steve, Steve, Matt and Mike rode mostly together throughout the day. Fred must have caught up with Stan somewhere between Orillia and Beaverton and Robert was last seen chatting to a friend along the route, perhaps in Barrie.

Despite the rain there were wonderful highlights to the day. One, I saw the osprey on Woodland Rd. that I see every year, sitting on her nest and with a brood of babies. I watched her fly away as I approached the nest and that was exciting. Second, meeting Henk and Juliana on Kirkland Rd en-route to Beaverton. Henk supplied us with cookies and water and good cheer. Perhaps it was Henk's cookies, or it may have been the tailwind, but after we ate those cookies we sped on Glenarm Rd into Beaverton, 40km/hr on the computer. Anyway, thank you to Henk and Juliana for the interesting diversion on the ride! Final highlight is the stark beauty of the Carden Plains: scrub, rock, bush, quintessentially Canadian!

I have done this ride in a snowstorm and in the rain. Is it too much to hope for a sunny day next year?! Thanks to all who participated in this ride. And Henk, can I have a few more of those cookies for the next brevet!

Kathy