

Frieda Baldwin, President
Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association
P.O. Box 693
Orillia, Ontario, L3V 6K7

September 24, 2018

**Re: Completion of the 'End-To-End Challenge' Hike
Entire 500 km Length of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail**

Dear Ms. Baldwin:

This letter is to inform the GHT Association that I have recently completed the entire End-To-End hike of the GH Trail in one continuous session including the tough Wilderness section during the summer of July-August, 2018. I am currently working on my Hike Log, and will be submitting my detailed log in support of an application for the GHT End-to-End certificate. For your information, I am a single, fit and educated 45-year male, a member of the GHT Association, and an experienced wilderness camper.

My hike commenced on July 3rd in Port Hope at the southern terminus cairn of the Pine Ridge Club. The hike was completed some 56 days later on August 28th near Midland. In an endeavour to meet the 'End-To-End Challenge', all side-tracks and loops were completed including the end branches at Wasaga Beach and Wye Marsh (Midland). My hike included rest days (or breaks) to recover from the heat-stroke, exhaustion, and dehydration due to the limited available water supplies. Photographs of my hike are attached: Fenlon Falls on July 15, 2018; and near Angus on August 17, 2018.

The following are a few of the highlights of my trip:

- Doing the entire hike in a single session is extremely taxing and exhausting on both body and mind;
- A hiker needs careful training, planning and proper equipment to enable a successful long-distance hike;
- A hiker should not anticipate meeting a fellow hiker for long periods, up to a week or more, at a time;
- The quality of the Trail is highly variable. Portions are beautifully maintained and a joy to travel;
- Other portions of the Trail are dangerous and challenging due to their ruggedness and lack of upkeep;
- A hiker needs to make provision for not finding drinking water supplies at designated water stops;
- An End-to-End hiker needs to plan on having coordinated supply drops at regular points along the Trail;

In summary, the GHTA Challenge during the hot and dry summer of 2018 was a wonderful experience, but also a physical and mental '**Challenge**'. My main '*take-away*' from the GHT hike was this: I started out reasonably fit and seemingly well prepared and organized. However, I quickly learned that I was not an experienced wilderness hiker. I had to learn to adapt to survive the heat, occasionally running out of edible food, the limited water supplies, and the occasional sections of less than well-maintained Trail.

I would welcome an opportunity to share these and other experiences, highlights and lessons learned with you and the Association. I plan to attend the GHTA 50th Anniversary in Orillia on September 28, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Tyler C. Gibson

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Cc: John Sloan, GHTA Trail Director

GHT Association 'End-To-End Challenge'
September 17, 2018



Tyler at Fenlon Falls, ON – July 15, 2018



Tyler near Angus, ON – August 17, 2018