

May 30, 2020 Trans Canada Trail Ride

May 30 turned out to be a great day for a bike ride on the Trans Canada Trail (TCT). It was cool when we started, but we were soon shedding outer layers and enjoying perfect riding weather.

Unlike some parts of the 170 km Rossburn subdivision trail that runs from Russell to Neepawa, the 22km Erickson to Sandy Lake section is very accessible for biking. Bert, Judy, Rick, Sue, Cathy, Stu, Di, Clarke, and grandson Vaughan, arrived at the parking lot at the end of Main Street in Erickson under sunny skies, and unloaded and assembled bikes. From here, the Elk Link trail took us about 5 km to the intersection with the TCT.



It was a bit cool when we started, but we were soon shedding outer layers and enjoying the comfortably cool weather. The trail, a mix of hard-packed gravel, grass, and dirt that can be a bit soft in places in wet weather, was terrific in Saturday's dry conditions.



The only hazard came in the form of some tiny goslings that were scurrying across the



path after their family. Judy caught sight of one just in time to avoid a quick end to its short life (and a dampening of spirits for the riders). Another, shortly after this, seemed uncertain what to do about the bicyclists who stopped to let them pass. This little guy (or gal) was running circles around Sue's feet before escaping to rejoin its family.



10 year old Vaughan, Clarke, and Di were at the head of the pack, and were already lurching in the Sandy Lake park with Carol and Myles, who had cycled from Sandy Lake to meet us, when the rest of us arrived. Our picnic lunch was topped off with cupcakes purchased at the Co-op by Bert to celebrate a few participants' summer birthdays. (He'd learned from a similar previous excursion that a birthday cake poses challenges when the only knife present is a swiss army knife and plates, forks, and washing facilities are absent).

After lunch, Vaughan hopped in the truck with his mother and brother for the ride back, and the rest of us enjoyed a leisurely (or in some cases not so leisurely) ride back to Erickson.

Thanks to all who came out and added to the enjoyment of the ride! After this ride, I am looking forward to some more biking excursions this summer.

