



An Inspiring Journey

The Bruce Trail Conservancy celebrates a true champion's success in accomplishing an amazing personal goal. This August Rhonda-Marie Avery set out to complete a Bruce Trail End-to-End. She joins the ranks the almost 3,000 people that have completed and registered their End-to-End with the BTC. All End-to-Ends deserve to be celebrated. These personal journeys involve planning, dedication and endurance. Each End-to-End is unique, being propelled by very personal motivations. And so too was Rhonda-Marie's End-to-End.

Rhonda-Marie Avery was born with a condition known as achromatopsia and she is legally blind, with only 8% vision. Her condition hasn't stopped her from running, cycling and swimming and becoming an endurance athlete. Rhonda-Marie shares her philosophy, "As a disabled endurance athlete, my goal is always to show up, do my best and put all concepts of my disability aside. I am there to complete an adventure, which regardless of having fewer limitations, perhaps, most would not undertake or would not consider being within my capacity to undertake. I say BE BRAVE, everyday! No matter what, do your best and see what you can accomplish".



Completing an End-to-End is an impressive feat. Completing it as a legally blind hiker in 20 days is all together another level of impressive. Rhonda-Marie was successful in completing her End-to-End because of her tenacious spirit and unwavering determination, and thanks to her 50 person strong guiding team. Guides ran with her every step of the way, describing almost every step to Rhonda-Marie as they traversed the Trail; every time Rhonda-Marie successfully cleared a log, root, crevice, stile, wash out, rogue branch it was thanks to her dedicated and skilled guides.

Rhonda-Marie has taken time to note

that her success was also possible thanks to the countless volunteers that keep the Bruce Trail in spectacular condition. Members of the BTC community cheered Rhonda-Marie on throughout her End-to-End and she and her team billeted at volunteers homes all the way down the Trail. Her last day on the Trail ended with a fete at the Queenston cairn. A documentary film crew recorded Rhonda-Marie's End-to-End and a feature documentary is in development.

The BTC community congratulates Rhonda-Marie on this very personal and profound adventure; you have provided inspiration to us all. •

