

The ONTARIO GRANITE ANVIL 1200 KM RANDONNEE
August 13-16, 2009
Sponsored by the

RANDONNEURS ONTARIO CYCLING CLUB

What is “Randonneurs Ontario”

Randonneurs Ontario is a provincial cycling organization whose goals are to promote randonneuring cycling in Ontario. It was organized in 1983 initially under the name of Toronto Randonneurs. As regional clubs developed in the province the name was change in 2000 to RANDONNEURS ONTARIO. Randonneurs Ontario is a member of the Audax Club Parisien (ACP), the organization that governs Randonneuring around the world and of “les Randonneurs Mondiaux”, and an international organization grouping over 35 countries from all continents.

What is “Randonneuring”

Randonneuring is a term used to describe a particular form of cycling a "randonnée". There is no direct English translation of the French term randonnée, which loosely means to go on a long trip, tour, or any form of outing, along a defined route. A person who goes on a "randonnée" is called a "randonneur" hence the term “Randonneuring”. In cycling, a randonneur, means a hard-riding enthusiast who is trying to complete a long randonnée inside a certain time allotment. Note that a randonnée is not a race. The last finishers get as much applause as anyone else.

This form of cycling originated in Europe in the late 19th century. Since 1921 the ACP has established the rules of randonneuring and keeps a record of all riders from around the world who have completed a sanction ride organized by their national, provincial or local clubs. Sanctioned rides (or brevets as they are called) are distances of 200, 300, 400, 600, 1000 and 1200 kms. These brevets are controlled at identified check points along the route where the riders must have their “control card” signed by a controller and completed in a predetermined time period. The ACP organizes a world-renowned event every 4 years, which now attracts over 5000 participants. It is the 1200 km brevet from Paris to Brest and return to Paris which must be completed, in an overall time of 90 hours. Many countries are now organizing an equivalent brevet. The Randonneurs Ontario for the first time, is organizing such an event in August 2009 called the Ontario Granite Anvil 1200 km. Cyclists from Canada, the US and Australia have registered.

The event will start in Oshawa, travel west and northwest towards Georgian Bay on to Midland, east over the Canadian Shield up to Bancroft, south to Napanee via Kingston and returning to the start point in Oshawa. Three “overnight” controls have been identified where the riders will have the opportunity to rest for a few hours and be provided with a hot meal. These controls are being planned at Victoria Harbour (near Midland), Bancroft and Napanee. Between these major controls points there will be intermediate controls where riders will have access to snack foods and water.

Sixty (60) cyclists are expected to participate in the Granite Anvil. The Ontario Randonneurs Cycling Club will require volunteers to staff the controls. Of particular concern is the Napanee “overnight control” which must be staffed from 19:00 hour Friday, August 7th to 07:00 hour Sunday August 9th. If you are interested contact the undersigned.

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Links to Ontario Granite Anvil 1200 km: [http://www.ontariograniteanvil1200.com/?
Granite_Anvil_1200](http://www.ontariograniteanvil1200.com/?Granite_Anvil_1200)

Links to Randonneurs Ontario: <http://www.randonneursontario.ca/>