

Are you new to hiking and wondering what it is like to go on an ORTA hike? This report with photos courtesy of John Fuchs will give you a preview. Please join us on the trail soon!

Our hike last Wednesday took in the Seaton Trail again. It's one of my favourite trails and I could easily hike this trail 3 or 4 times each year. 11 hikers met in the parking lot in Whitevale under bright, sunny skies. Led by Russ Burton, we headed south across the soccer field at 9:35am at a moderate pace. Along the way we met some people walking their dogs and at least 4 cyclists. This trail as with most, changes with the seasons. The grasses and shrubs seemed to be at their very highest and the trail looked different from the last time we were there. Two trees had fallen over right across the trail at different points and it certainly seemed that the erosion of the river banks had not slowed in any way. We crossed Taunton Road and went along Whites Road and climbed the steps just over West Duffins Creek to get to the top of that hill. A few of the more daring among us went to the look out point very, very, very briefly. As we got closer to our luncheon destination we



started to hear the rumble of thunder to the east of us. We arrived at our usual lunch spot around 11:40am and had a leisurely lunch under the railway trestle. While we were there a freight train rumbled along above us and we saw containers with names such as K Line, Cosco



and Hyundai which we knew were from far away places such as South Korea and China. Meanwhile, the sky had become cloudy above us and the rumbling of thunder was still taking much of our attention. The sky was dark to the north and to the east of us. As we got up to head back four hikers put on their back pack protective covers and some others got their ponchos ready to put on. That proved to be a good omen! Twenty minutes into our return journey the thunder ceased and the sunny skies returned. We took a little more adventurous route back crossing the

creek over the boulders as we had done many times before. We arrived back at the parking lot safe and sound, around 1:50pm after having hiked a total of 16km. A few of us then headed north to the Earl of Whitchurch's in Stouffville for a variety of refreshments and a discussion of next week's hike in the Hockley Valley.

Happy hiking all and see you next week,

John