

## The Enterprise-Bulletin

### Bruce Trail runners forced to cut it short;

The Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin

Wed Sep 23 2009

Page: A7

Section: Sports

Byline: DENIS LANGLOIS;

Running all 850 kilometres of the rugged Bruce Trail in just six days has proven insurmountable for Dave Battison and Brian Culbert, who abandoned their fundraising challenge Saturday after 550 km.

"The truth is, we're not gonna make it. Tomorrow will be our last day. Their feet is what's giving up on them," said Kevin Hillock, a member of the pair's support team.

Battison, 43 of Campbell River, B. C., and Culbert, a 49-year-old investment banker from Toronto, left Queenston -- the bottom of the Bruce Trail -- on Sept. 12, with the goal of reaching Tobermory last Friday.

"The first part of the trail was quite rough and we weren't able to get the amount of distance we needed each day to reach our goal," Battison said.

The pair would have had to each run about 75 kilometres per day, he said. They instead averaged about 60 km apiece.

Reached Friday afternoon just north of Kimberley, Battison said his feet are "torn up" and he has injured his knee and legs. Culbert, who was running at the time, also has blistered feet and a sore hip, Battison said.

"It's getting progressively harder," he said. "It's been a long six days."

Battison, a professional nordic ski coach, is Culbert's mountain biking coach. The pair decided to run the entire Bruce Trail in six days to knock a life goal off their 'Bucket List.'

They are accompanied on the run by Hillock of Collingwood, who is driving the RV, and Courtenay, B. C., physiotherapist Eddy Betinol.

Money raised during the run will be donated to Healthy Kids International, an initiative of The Hospital for Sick Children to aid kids in developing countries. So far, \$110,000 has been raised. Visit [www.the850race.com](http://www.the850race.com) to donate.

## Duo runs the Bruce Trail for charity

Niagara This Week

Thu Sep 17 2009

Page: 01

Section: Niagara-On-The-Lake

A lot can happen in six days and that's exactly what Brian Culbert and David Battison are counting on.

The two runners are planning on running 850 kilometres - the entire length of the Bruce Trail - in 140 hours. Dubbed The 850 Race, they kicked off on Sunday morning from the Brock Monument in Queenston at 10 a.m.

Culbert, from Toronto, said the race for him is more than just about running, it's about "doing the impossible" for a good cause. It's a fundraising initiative in support of HealthyKids International, a global child health initiative run by the SickKids Foundation.

The foundation is something that is close to Culbert's heart. His nine-year-old son, Matthew, was born with a disability and spent the first 12 days of his life in the SickKids hospital. He said that once his son was released, he and his wife, Denise, made a pact to give back as best as they could.

"I guess you could say this is a life-long mission," he said.

The idea for the race, however, came years later at a different time in his life. Two years ago, Culbert retired from professional cycling. Sitting around with his former cycling coach, Battison, he admitted he was depressed over having nothing to train for anymore.

The two came up with the idea to run the Bruce Trail and from there, the two set up a time line for themselves, and then tweaked it to one that Culbert described as nearly impossible. The two runners will attempt to run two marathons a day, completing the 850 kilometre stretch in six days.

To match their impossible goal, they've set an equally impressive fundraising goal of \$1 million for HealthyKids International. So far they've raised just over \$100,000 through word-of-mouth. They're hoping that people following their progress on their web site, [www.the850race.com](http://www.the850race.com), will be inspired to donate.

For Stacia Neale, fundraising operations for HealthyKids International, the race is a wonderful, innovative fundraising idea.

"When I first heard about their idea, I couldn't believe someone would be willing to sacrifice that much time," she said. "Then I met them, and I realized what an extraordinary family the Culbert family is and I knew it would be possible."

The money raised will go towards supporting the work that HealthyKids International does, including their fellowship program which brings doctors from developing nations into Canada to train and learn new skills they can bring back to their areas and use.

The two are hoping to set a world record with their attempt.

# THE SUN TIMES

## Bruce Trail runners forced to cut it short;

The Owen Sound Sun Times

Sat Sep 19 2009

Page: A1

Section: News

Byline: DENIS LANGLOIS SUN TIMES STAFF;

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