

Thursday Tour, 28th January 2010

By Derek Wills

Rendezvous: 10 a.m. at Accueil du Corridor Aérobique, Morin-Heights

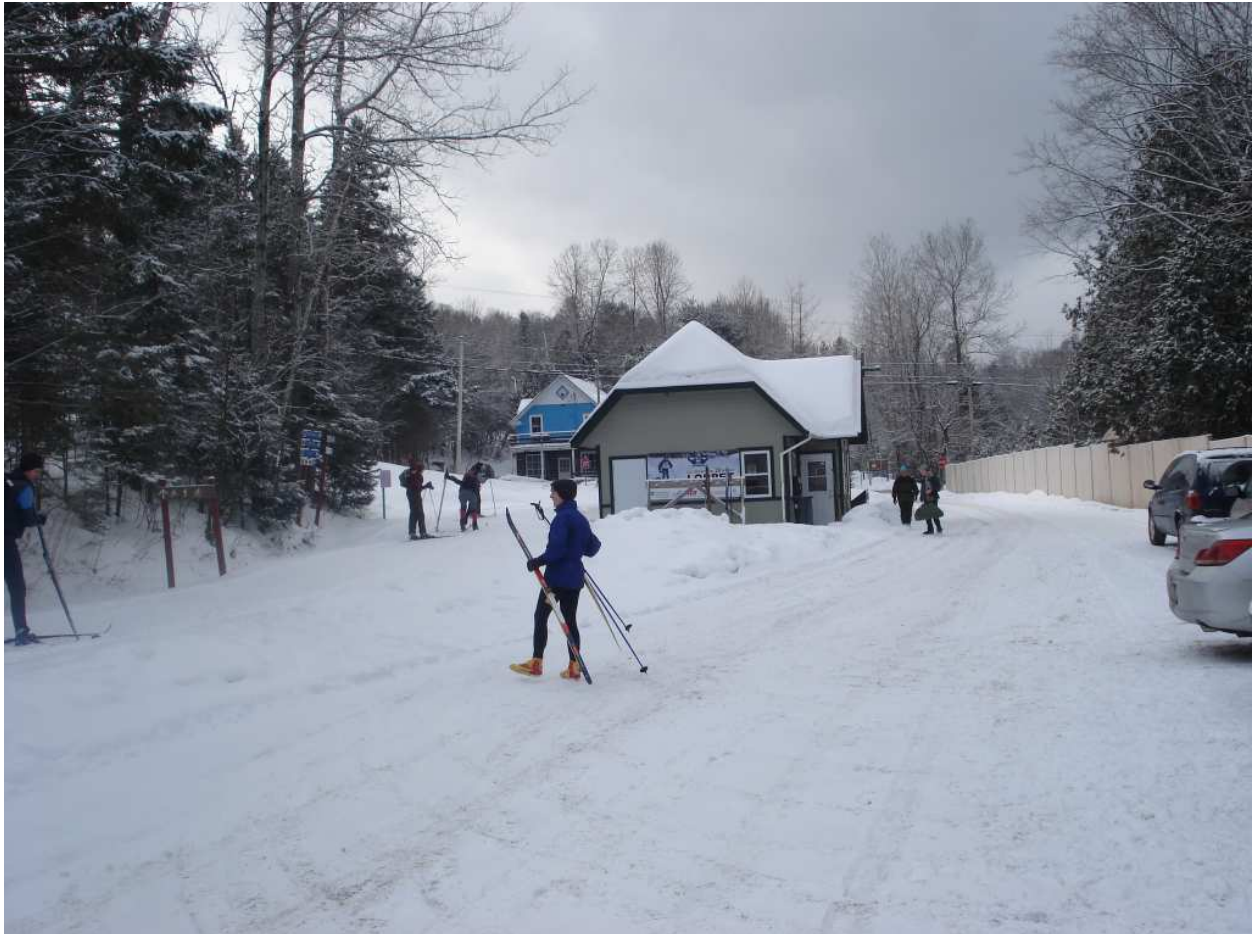
Trails skied: Aerobic Corridor (No. 1), Le Tour (No. 49),
Viking Red (No. 40), Poste (No.35)

Round trip skied ~ 20 km On-trail duration ~ 4 hours

Conditions: -5°C, mostly hazy, fresh 10 cm of snow

Map Ref. Morin-Heights x-c trail map

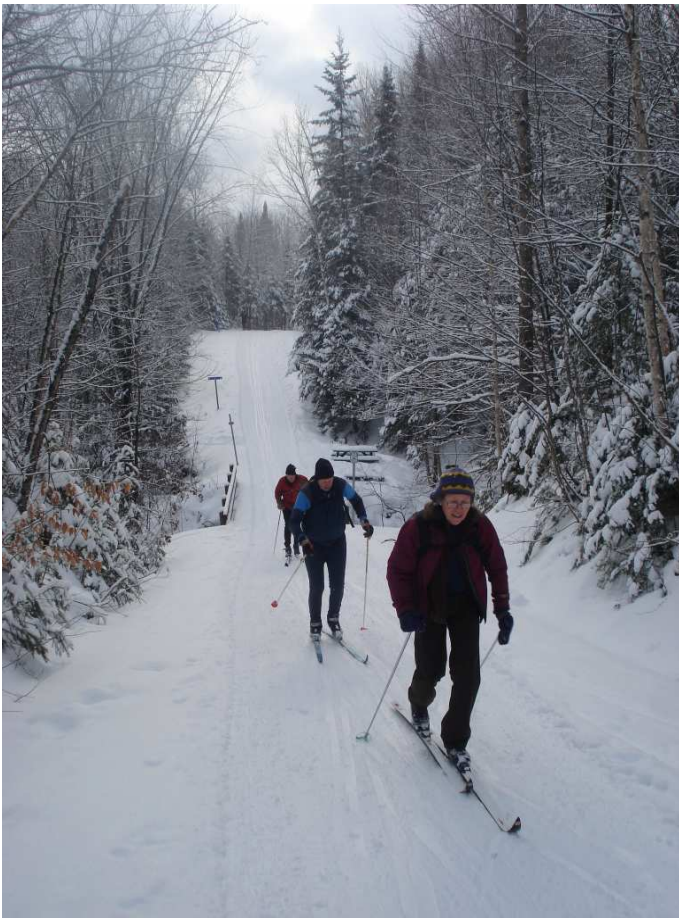
Snow solvent, or “rain” as it is more commonly known, fell in abundance early in the week... much to the anxious consternation of Thursday tour weather watchers! However, by mid week, news was dribbling down from the north that conditions were not quite as bad as city-based skiers imaginations might have led them believe. Reduced participation indicated that not all were convinced...but the following optimists were rewarded with what turned out to be quite superior velvet-like snow conditions: Gordon Cohen, Tim Baker, Dick Pickering, Murray Moss & Judy Lazarus, David Clark, Howard Bussey, Sheila Mason, Judy Rogers, Derek Wills.... and fresh back from Caribbean tides and winds, Jarmila Philipp!



Our rendezvous, the Accueil du Corridor Aérobique, but as a resident of Morin Flats some 115 years ago, you would have welcomed in the first steam train of Canadian National Railways.

The last train left this station site in 1962.

Thought not to be good for its ski image, the village changed its name from Morin Flats to Morin Heights in 1911



It has to be admitted that when our rendezvous is declared to be the Aerobic Corridor, it is assumed to be a choice of “last resort”, given that virtually all else is suspected to be un-skiable or accessible only via Atlantis!

However, we enjoyed a fast glide on some 10 cm of fresh velvet like snow, plus First Class “first-in-track” service thanks to diligent municipal track setters at work.



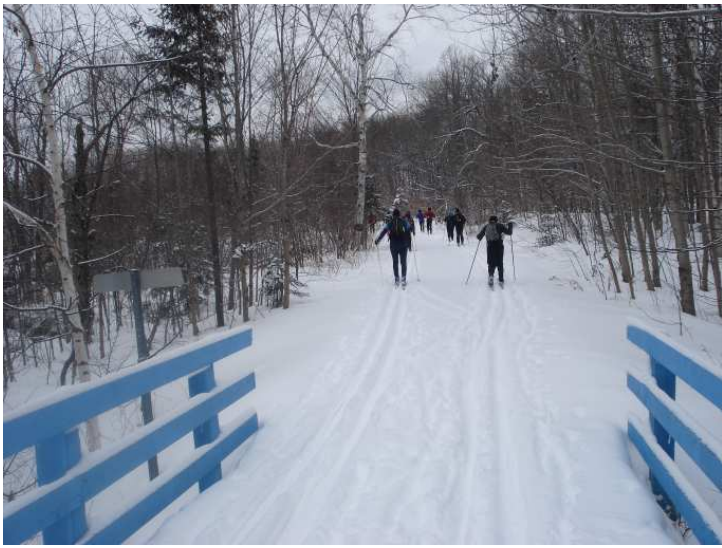


Hydrology 101

All that rain has to go somewhere!

Trailside to the Aerobic Corridor, rushing torrents start their long downhill race to the Atlantic Ocean via their father; the St Lawrence River.





Thursday tours pride themselves on “the unexpected”.

Some 6 km down the Aerobic track, with 2 km to go for an anticipated stop in at the Pavillion Montfort (Church) for lunch, we encounter Dave Clark skiing toward us. He’s a Thursday regular, lives in Montfort and kindly invites us all to enjoy our lunches at his lakeside residence on Lac Saint-François-Xavier! None refuse this offer....and so Dave leads us off down the lake to his residence, with its origins going back to his grandfather.





And so here we lunch in comparative luxury, amid Dave's impressive hand crafted wood décor, complimented by all manner of artistic and vegetative surrounds, plus various pets that started off as "temporary" guests, but ended up as permanent residents!

On a negative note, poor Dick realises that his packed lunch lies on his kitchen table.....at home.....missed in haste!



For a little variety and challenge on the return trip 6 of us get onto the Viking Red trail via the Le Tour to the so-called Montfort meadow.

All the gravity earned elevation is paid back on the nice long rundowns of the Poste trail, which brings us back down onto the Aerobic Corridor at the 6 km marker.

Still out for more challenge a splinter group of 3 veer off onto the Alternatif trail.

So, not untypical, we start of as one group, and end up as 4, or was 5? groups!!!