Thursday, Jan. 27

Some 20 Vikings showed up at the Cohens' cottage on Lac-Notre-Dame January 27 for the weekly Thursday tour. After the usual consultations (Which skies to take: waxless? steel-edged? touring? And, if wax skis, which wax?), we set out across the lake, then hooked up with the Blue trail and the Crown South.

All went well and we carried on to our lunch spot at I3 where, after eating, we confidently set off (and UP) the loon-signed-marked Lac Notre-Dame trail. However, after a short while, the trail "disappeared" and despite various sorties to try and locate it, we decided the wisest move was to retrace our path down the hill we had just, very laboriously, climbed (with a certain amount of slipping in the powdery snow). And this descent was a challenge to say the least. We eventually rejoined the Crown South, then another section of the Lac Notre-Dame trail, and back to the lake and the Cohens.

Many thanks to Gordon and Sorel for providing a rendezvous point, and for delicious soup and warm hospitality.

All admitted that as far as Thursday tours go, this was a good one: excellent skiing (some of the time, anyway), interesting terrain, some nice powder snow with the odd rock thrown in for challenge – but most of all because we got lost. (This is getting harder to do as several in the group carry GPS – but we managed anyhow!) Hmmm, we'd better say thanks also to our fearless leader Derek Wills. But was he really relegated to the back of the pack after the "getting lost" incident? We'll never tell.

