

The Portageur, Thursday March 31, 2011

I had a great time yesterday skiing the Portageur from the clubhouse to Ski Morin-Heights, skiing downhill and then coming back. Beautiful sunny day, temperature around 5° and the universal klister worked very well on the soft, wet snow.

I did not think the uphill and downhill of the Portageur were very steep. There are more challenging sections on the Red trail. Maybe the more difficult sections of the Portageur were eliminated by this new logging trail which runs above the north shore of the lac Outardes (name on Google map only) and probably follows much of the original Portageur trail up to near the summit (see <http://www.vikingskiclub.ca/uni/maps/trailmap-colour.pdf>). This new road is skiable but at one point, after it makes a sharp turn to the left, there is a chain there with a sign "Forêt privée" with the name of the owner: Terra bois from Lachute. Then it climbs and makes another left turn for and climbs a few meters. Right after that turn, there is, on the right, a marker for the Portageur (8).

After that, the trail is well indicated with a series of markers till Ski Morin-Heights. Two roads to be crossed on foot: chemin de Blue Hills and a new road not yet on the map, which starts from chemin de Blue Hills and cuts the Portageur between the intersect with the Birkebeiner (29) and the start of the Horizon (31). Development is spreading fast.

It's quite a nice tour. At Ski Morin-Heights, I had all the slopes to me. Nice, smooth base, no uncovered areas, sunny afternoon. With the klister, I could climb my way straight up, no herringbone or zigzag.

The return was easy as I skied on my own trails, the shortest way back to the clubhouse.

With very little snow cover on some areas on the southside, and temperatures still around 6°, I think this was probably the last opportunity to do this tour this season.

Richard L'Heureux