

8th Thursday Tour – 1st March 2012

Rendez-vous: An obscure cul de sac parking area on Chemin Le Nordois, which lies on the municipal boundaries of Saint-Sauveur and Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs.

Ref. Map: Shown below and just recently provided to us by fellow Viking John Maase, who was unfortunately not able to join us for this tour.

Trails Skied: About 30% of the Loken loop and the Tamaracouta (signed simply as TAM) making for a 10 km round trip.

The tour attendees list fluctuated as wildly as the dramatic media weather reports! However, 10 hardy souls did finally show up for the tour, with the attitude that “it can’t be that bad”....and indeed it was not!!

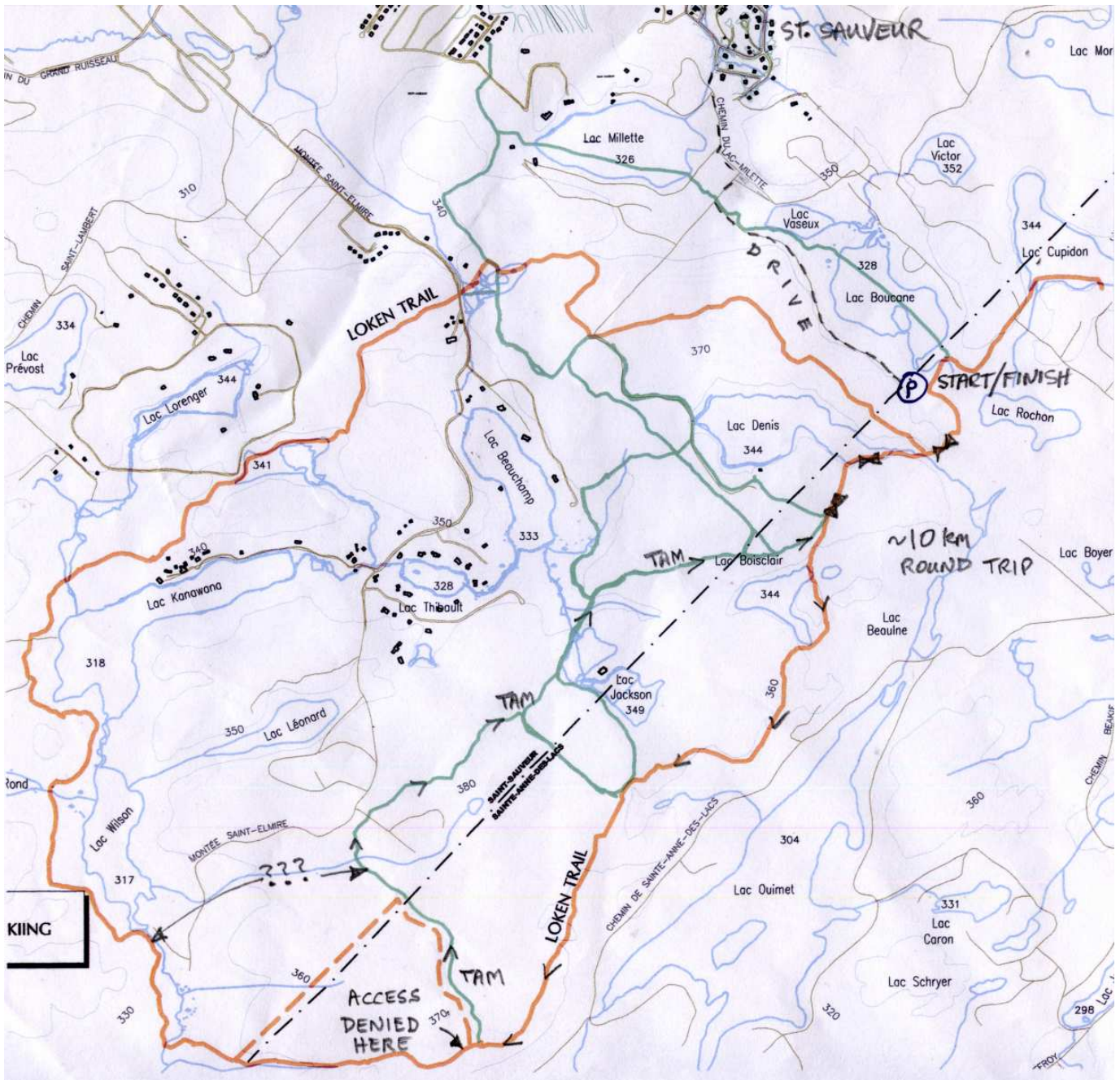


So...here was our first time seemingly “middle of nowhere” rendez-vous, overlooked by classy real estate properties which lined this Chemin Le Nordois.

A short steep section of snowshoe trail led us onto the famous Loken trail for the tour commencement.

We traditionally do the Loken trail as a scheduled Saturday tour under the guidance of its creator and maintainer - Mike Loken himself, starting and finishing at his residence on Lac Cupidon which lays about 1 km NE of here.

This time out.....we have to navigate ourselves....for the first time!!!



With John's map in hand, we set off and after some 4 km run into a section of the Loken trail which the land owner makes it clear with high, "out-of-vandals-reach" signage, that proceeding further will not be welcomed!

So, we veer north on the green TAM signed trail in the belief that there must later be a re-connection back to the Loken trail, but if there is, we could not find it?

The map would suggest that perhaps walking a kilometre west down MontéeSaint-Elmire would bring you back onto the Loken trail.

However, we conclude it more expedient to make our return on the TAM trail, which eventually reunites us back onto the Loken trail, leaving a kilometre back to the parking lot.



As if it were not frustrating enough that land owners were swallowing up sections of the Loken trail; the trees were also swallowing up the Loken trail signs!!



We enjoyed excellent conditions, fresh snow, nice up and down modulations through forested areas.

No machine track setting here, all relies on local and visiting traffic to break the trail.

The dull chilly weather was not conducive for a trail-side lunch, so we retreated into Café Dépot in Saint-Sauveur, the friendly owner of which granted permission for us to eat our packsack lunches, supplemented by his excellent soup and coffee!

Some 8 km of the Loken trail loop remain for future discovery and exploration!!