

Viking Thurs. Tour 12 Feb/15

Some 10 Vikings made the Chalet Far Hills rendez-vous and parted with \$15 each for the privilege of enjoying an adventurous 5 hours on the vast "multi-option" network of ski trails.

Our day ticket included a network map which shows the spaghetti-like network, comprising a mix of some 70 km of easy (green), difficult (blue) and very difficult (black) graded trails.

An overnight fresh dusting of snow on the generously wide and track set trails made for easy skiing.

Following our usual ski tour strategy, we head off East to West across the network with Chalet Ann Piche as our lunch stop objective. En route we select the black "difficult" trails so that adrenaline surges are stimulated...as indeed they were on the long exhilarating downhill runs, especially the descent down the classic Maple Leaf (No.1) trail.

Post lunch, at the delightfully appointed and warm Chalet Anne Piche, the troops seem agreeable to take on some back country skiing for the return, namely the classic Gallespie (No. 4) trail which runs across the northern borders of the park. The Belle etoile (No.23) routes us up to gain access onto the Gallespie trail, which was well traversed by purist backwoods skiers. Hearts were tested as there is a seemingly non-stop climb up and up for several km before the downhill rewards are delivered! Yes, seniors have not forgotten child-like exclamations like: "Are we nearly there yet?"

Enough of this backwoods stuff, lets get back onto the nicely groomed park network trails! To achieve this, the map showed a tempting 0.5 km cross-linking trail, what could go possibly wrong? Alas, what appeared to be "the cross-link" degenerated into a quagmire of deep snow and a tangle of vegetation....oh, how the cursing explicatives flew!!! Backtracking and venturing down another obscure and unmarked trail did indeed lead us back onto the "difficult" Cesaire (No.15) trail, which in turn lead to an eventual easy return to the Chalet Far Hills. Phew! The "misleading tour leader", being fleet of foot, managed to remain unscathed, unlike the trails.....which remain black and blue!

Derek





Trail junction wait-up at Merrell sponsored heated hut



So, who was Anne Piché?

ANNE PICHÉ
1964-2004

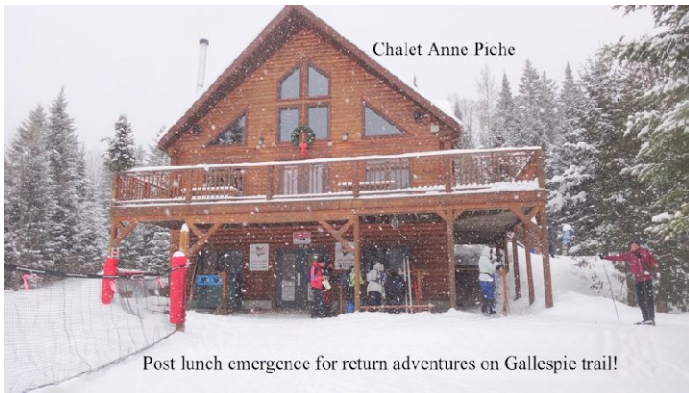
Spécialiste d'activités de plein air et alpiniste, Anne Piché était une jeune conseillère municipale de Val-David.

Elle s'était vu confier le dossier du futur parc régional Outaouais.

En 2004, lors d'une ascension dans les montagnes Rocheuses, elle a perdu la vie en traversant le glacier Victoria au lac Louise, soit seulement quelques semaines avant l'inauguration du chalet d'accueil qui porte aujourd'hui son nom en sa mémoire.

Parc de la Rivière Outaouais et du Patrimoine de Val-David

Anne Piché (1964-2004)



Chalet Anne Piché

Post lunch emergence for return adventures on Gillespie trail!



Mount Cesaire

We ski by the fringes of the Roman Empire!



Gillespie Trail

Confusing, as signs only apply to summer activities!



Seems woodpeckers can be remarkably artistic!



Cheap storage company?



Suspected Robin Hood ambush
proves false!