

Viking Thursday Tour Report for 23rd March 2017

Summary: Morin-Heights backwoods ski network, (North Region)
Covering a challenging trail combo loop of some 8 km

Weather: Starting around -10 deg. C, with upward warming trend to melting, brilliant sunshine.

Conditions: Around 15 cm of snow base left, with a fresh topping, but some icy sections!

Thanks to Richard's kind invite to his recently acquired country residence close to Lac Théodore, we were able to make a first time ski sortie into the northern-most ski trails of the Morin-Heights backwoods network. (Our conventional approach to this network is from the south starting from the Municipal car park). Up for the Richard's adventures were a lone matriarch Linda, plus diehards Gordon, Jan and Derek.

We set off on "Richard's Link" to pick up the south-bound Western (No. 14) trail, then La Chasse-Galerie (No. 38), then an east to west traverse on the Lovers Leap (No.16) enabling us to pick up the Rapide Blanc (No. 21), northward bound. Midway along this section there is the opportunity make a 300 m side climb to a spectacular lookout, (500 m elevation), wind gusts notwithstanding!

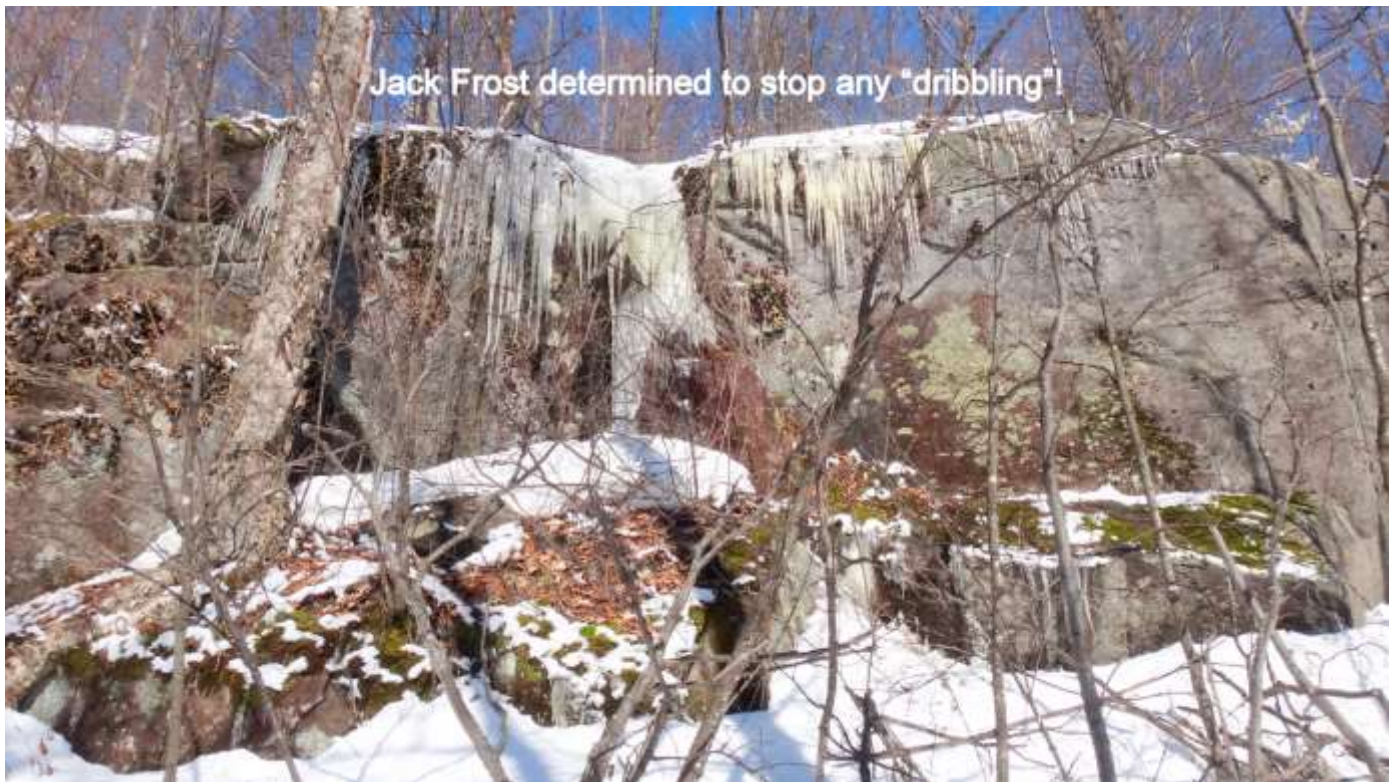
Giddy sightseeing over, we were now faced with the descent down to Lac Théodore, on "new" snow conditions. We now realized why this trail was named "Rapide Blanc" inasmuch our skis were indeed uncontrollably "rapid" and anxious faces "blanc" as we hugged trees, side-stepped, tumbled and even "offed-skis" and walked...all in a desperate attempt to remain vertical! Lack of trail signs at one point added an element of confusion, but we finally made it down to the horizontal surface of Lac Théodore and thence back to Richard's for a warm indoor lunch break!

Post lunch and still eager for a little more exercise, Richard suggested we explore the north bound section of the famous Western Trail, which we did for about 1 km in. It must be confessed where this trail leaves Lac Théodore's north shore; keen observation is required to spot the trail markers for its continuation. With 5 pairs of eyes, we can report that we at least succeeded!!





**Not quite the "sunny beeches"
snow birds had in mind!**

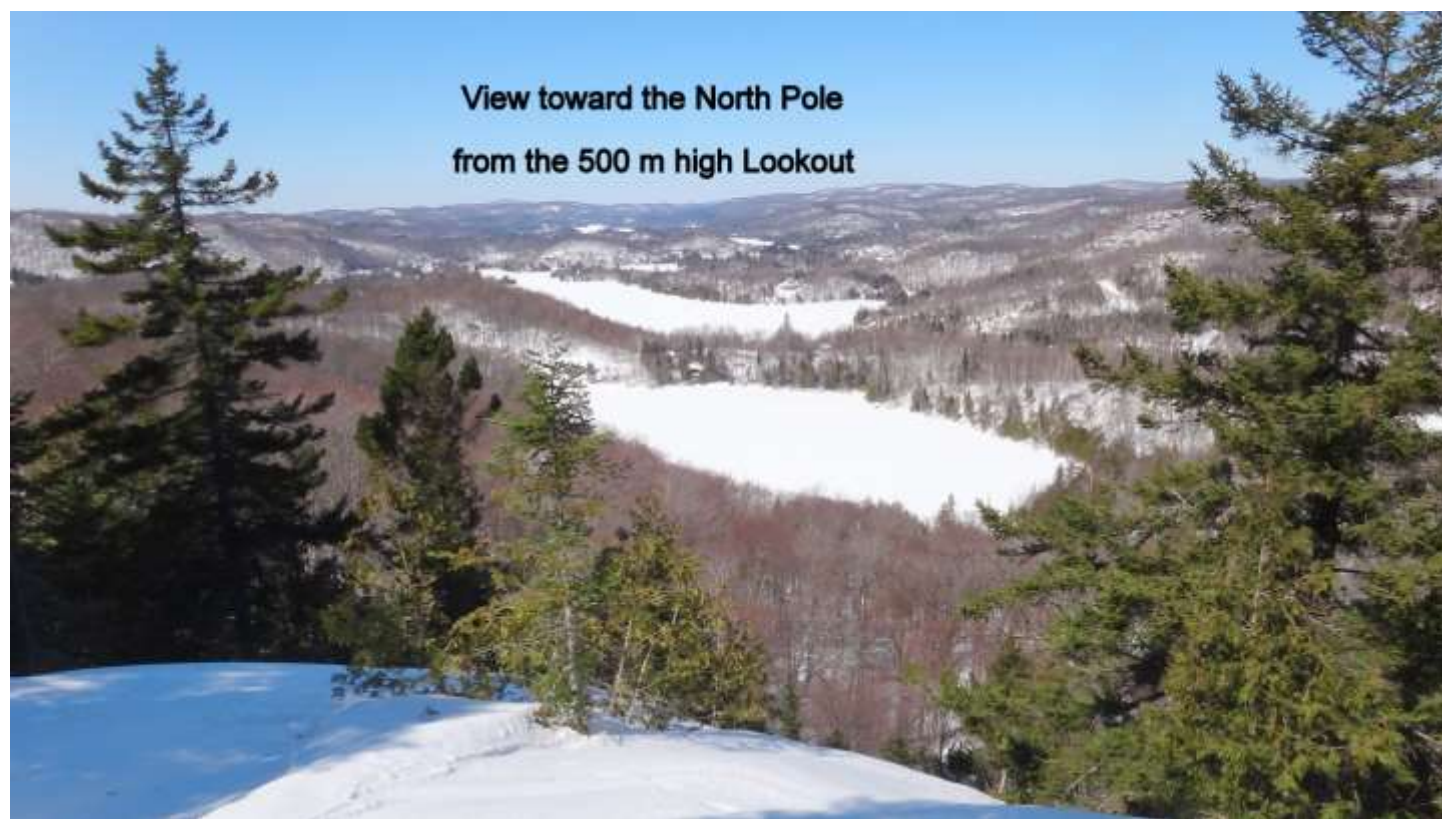


Jack Frost determined to stop any "dribbling"!

Our 500m high Lookout

X

Lac Theodore



View toward the North Pole
from the 500 m high Lookout



On Lac Theodore, we ski by this humble residence for sale!



Our return ski along Lac Theodore
No sign of water skiers....yet!



Old and
even
older
Western
trail signs



Refreshment stand?
On the Western Trail