

Viking Thursday Tour Report for 22nd March 2018

Summary: A 14 km loop (took ~5 hr.) on the Viking and Morin-Heights Municipal trail network which included:

Vert/Green (No. 43), Portageur, (No. 8), Birkbeiner, (No. 29), Edelweiss (No. 32), and Viking Red (No. 40)

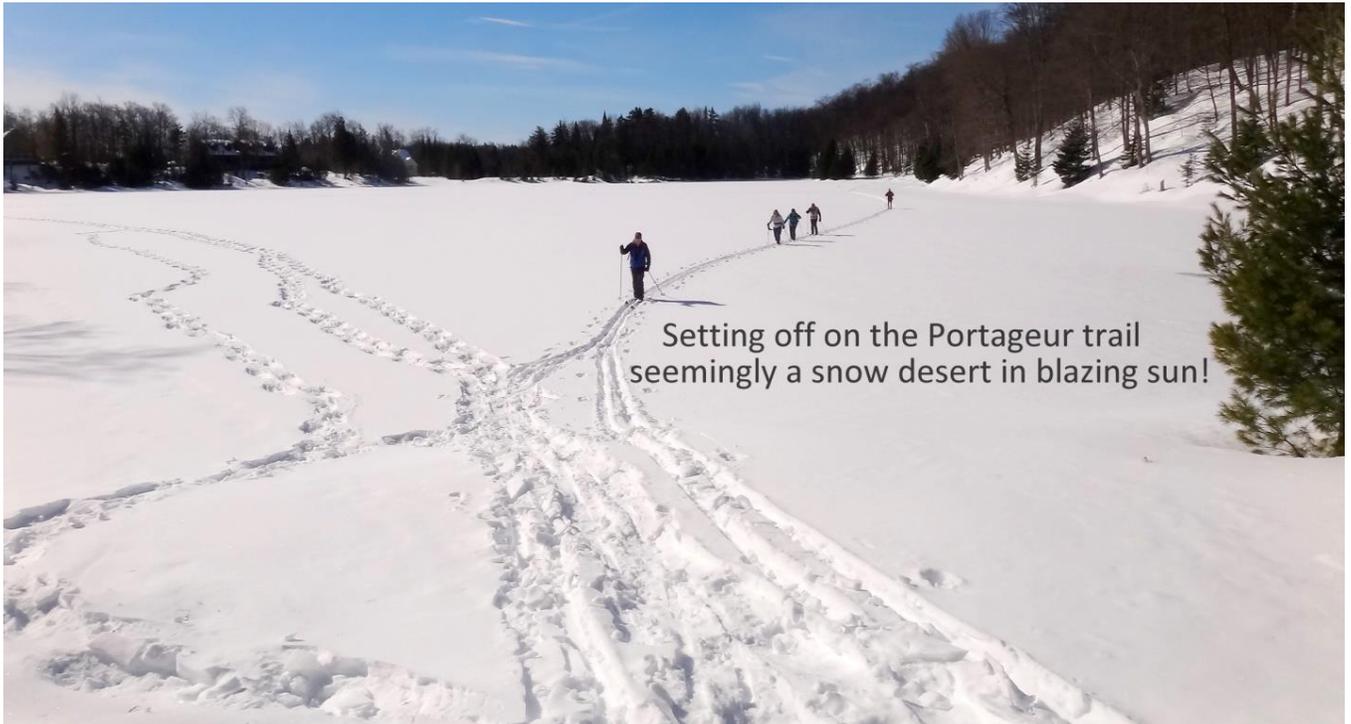
Temp: a balmy “hats off” +1 Deg. C, intense sun, no wind, firm snow base of 1 to 2 feet.

Our “spring ready” band of 6 attendees: Katherine, Linda, Gordon, Howard, Philip and Derek, innocently bought into the suggestion that we “explore” the resurrected section of the Portageur trail, long out of bounds due to landowner blockage problems. The Morin-Heights municipality advised that this classic heritage trail had now been re-routed and re-signed.....it seemed only appropriate for us to “check it out!”

Being classed as “back country” and “difficult”.....really means that you can expect high calorific expenditure when skiing this particular section! Indeed, it turned out to be the case, notwithstanding the trail exhibited a mix of traffic which seemed to include walkers, snowshoers, skiers and pulka pullers!

It was with great relief when we finally reached the Edelweiss trail which had been nicely machine track set.

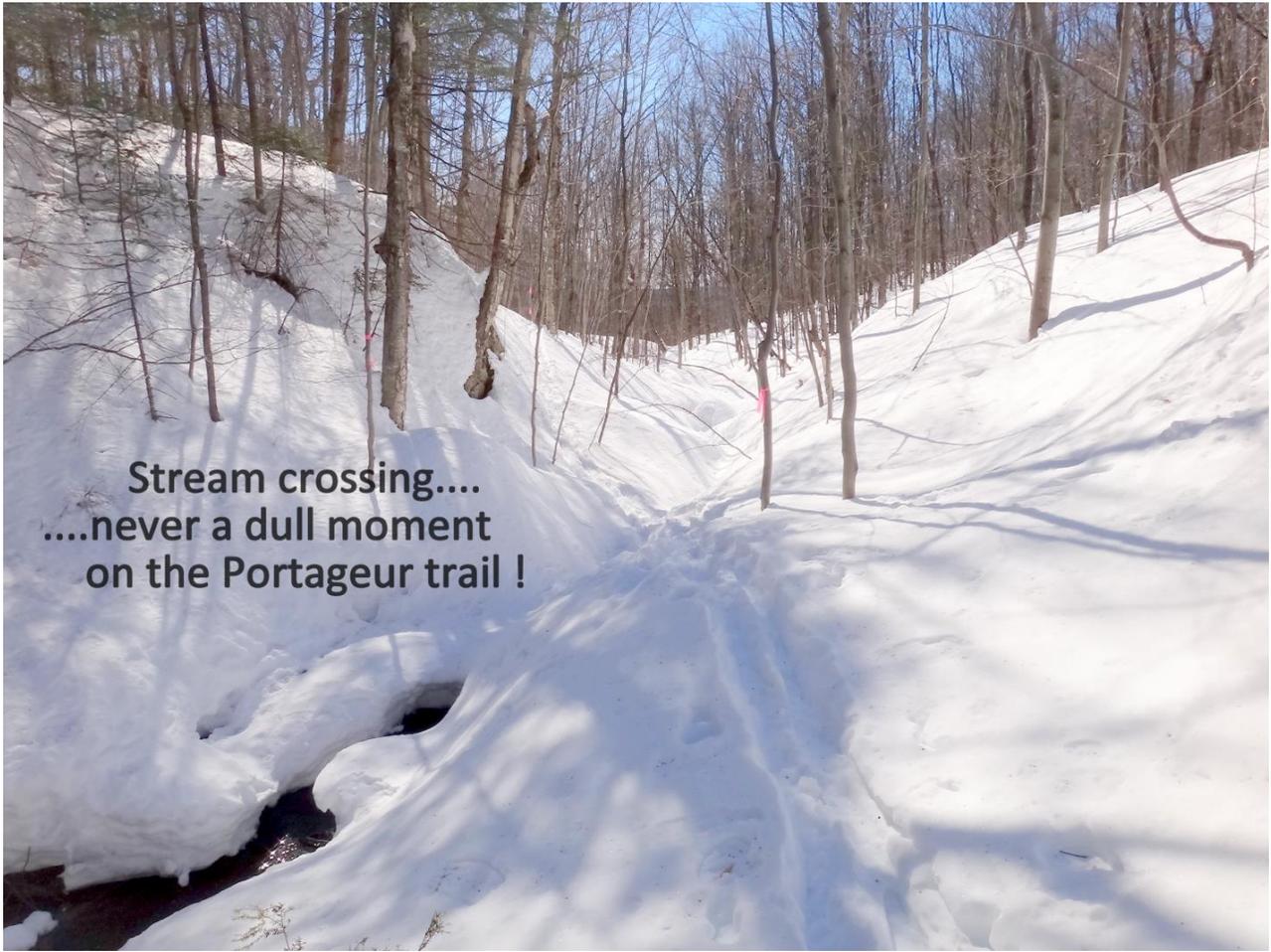




Setting off on the Portageur trail
seemingly a snow desert in blazing sun!



A trail-side albino elephant?



**Stream crossing....
....never a dull moment
on the Portageur trail !**



A LOUER

**Nature's active
rental market!**



Some Vikings will
snack on anything!



We miss the trail turn off,
and end up meeting a couple
of free range ducks!



Vikings...high on Vitamin D!