

Viking Thursday Tour - 9th January 2020

Fellow tourers.....a crude synopsis follows....letting the 45 or so "no-shows" ...realize what they missed!

At least the following seven Vikings made a true effort to met their New Year's resolution... "to keep fit on Thursdays!"

Dave Clark, Christopher Neal, Tim Baker, Don Hetherington, Gordon Cohen, Derek Wills and a warm (-15 Deg. C) welcome to newcomer Christine Bush!

Given that all other Laurentian x-c ski centres were declaring only "partially open", we decided to venture off to our "100 %" open" Camping Ste-Agathe-des-Mont with its immaculate 50 km trail network, all impeccably trackset, little wonder we Vikings refer to it as "The Jewel in the Crown!"

Having all booted up in the excellent warm and spacious reception centre, we were about to set off down the trail when Gordon gave us an "unfortunate tip", i.e. the basket tip on one of his ski poles decided to part company with it's parent pole! So it was back into reception centre to effect a hasty repair.....with duct tape to the rescue...which remarkably survived the tour!

Although temperatures were around the -15 Deg. C, there was mercifully no wind, and we were at least blessed with brilliant sunshine. Initially, one skis by a series of snow and ice entombed caravans and trailer summer residences before reaching the wonderful wooded ski trail network itself, with uphill that are rewarded with delightfully wide, safe long rundowns. After some 5 kms of skiing, we stopped by the Desjardins Refuge for drinks and snacks, no cash machine within, but at least a wood stove as a warm investment!

During our 3 hour ski sojourn, we covered some 14 kms, and even took in a 2 km loop appropriately named the Cohen Trail.

After a delightful concluding long run down to the reception centre, we partook of welcome soup and hot chocolate on offer, amid pictorial reminders of skiers past.....my, how classy in those days with a tie and plus-fours!

Please see attached previous (2019) tour report, which gives a more pictorial version of the scenes at Camping Ste-Agathe-des-Mont!

Derek