

Viking Thursday Tour Report for 23rd January 2020

A Thursday dilemma: binge-watch Senate proceedings, or tackle on skis the Werewolf Mountain (Mont du Loup-Garou)? Wise council from Don and Andrea had us choose the latter, with some 15 Vikings eagerly signing on for a 14 km, 4-1/2 hour long tour on the Ste-Adele trail network that culminates with an impressive elevated 500m view atop Mont du Loup-Garou!

Participants were:

Don & Andrea Patch Smith, Howard Bussey & Celia Lang, Christine Bush, Daphne Armstrong, Cathy Barr, Kathy Walsh, Chris Neal, Jicheng Huang, Jan Brochocki, Frank Philpott, Tim Baker, Gordon Cohen, Derek Wills.

Our initial morning rendezvous was in downtown Ste-Adele, at the elaborately entitled "Bureau d'accueil touristique de la Place de Citoyens"a most elegant structure that facilitates all manner of public events.....from stage performances, to art exhibitions and conferences. A retired CBC radio reporter enthusiastically welcomed us with information, free trail maps etc. Unlike other municipal trail networks, Ste-Adele's nicely track set, virus-free network is entirely free!

With thoughts to the future, he advised us that the municipality of Ste-Adele is hoping to raise enough funds to buy out private landowners so that a "Loup-Garou Municipal Park" could be created to better facilitate public enjoyment of skiing, snow-shoeing, hiking...and yes, the now in vogue fat-biking!

All arrived and suitably informed, we set off in an 8 vehicle convoy to the generously sized trailhead parking lot "P3". Weather-wise, although overcast, temperatures hovered around zero, and there was no wind.

Our outward ski routing took us on the following trails: Loup-Garou (11)/CCC, Grande-Jaune (15) And the following for our return: Loup-Garou (11), Alexis (12), Adéloise Ouest (1).

Must confess to a somewhat irksome section on Adéloise Ouest trail whereby one has to de-ski, and walk up a steep gritty hill, then in contrast try and negotiate a steep downhill run, part of Ski Chantecler. Newton's laws of gravity were certainly in force here with incidents involving a runaway ski, and a collision wherein, like toppled skittles, a couple of participants ended up floored, with skis entangled! Assistance with boot release finally restored a semblance of vertical order!

All concluded with bowels of hot chocolate at the famous 35 year old **La Chocolaterie**, one of Ste-Adele's most valued assets....for weary x-c skiers!

Thanks to Don and Andrea for this Loup-Garou "refresher course", it's been some 6 years since we Vikings did this adventurous Thursday tour.

Derek

Photo Gallery



Trailhead parking lot "P3" easily absorbs the Viking invasion!



No shortage of activity information here!



A Dinosaur's egg.....left over from the last ice age?



The 2/3 rds of the group that finally made it up to the 500m high Loup-Garou summit!

Skittish chickadees take their chances with offered handouts!



The part of St. Francis of Assisi was played by Christine!



Alas, our normal view of Montreal was somewhat obscured!



We seemed to have this Chantecler downhill run all to ourselves!



Images you do not want your life insurance company to see!

The chocolate lady, Marie-Claude, takes our orders!

