

Viking Thursday Tour Report for 21st January 2021

Trail network at Le Centre de Plein Air St-Adolphe-d'Howard

Summary: Skied some 9 km (~ 3hrs) on La Sapinière (No.2) and La Jaune (No.3) trails.



Eager to leave their pandemic couches, and flatten some curves, some 7 “Viking family members” made up the “ski bubble” at the 10:15 am St-Adolphe ski center rendezvous. Covid protocols notwithstanding, with separate entrance and exit, the reception for purchase of our day passes (\$14) was friendly as usual, even if behind masks and the now all-too-familiar sheet of plexiglass!

It should be mentioned that the 11 participants (survivors?) at last year’s St- Adolphe tour were to have launched impeachment proceedings against the tour leader who lead them into knee deep uncharted snow territory! Now, Presidentially pardoned, as it was later revealed that “anti-ski trail” landowners had removed trail markers, which lead to much directional confusion, and a perplexed leader, map and compass in hand! This particular exploratory odyssey was on a trail network to the east of the ski centre.

Not wishing to repeat the experience, we this day opted for the traditional network on the west side of the ski centre, namely the forested La Sapinière (No.2) and La Jaune (No.3) trails which offer interesting outbound and inbound variations. As we have come to expect, all the trails were nicely packed and track set, with an added satin layer of freshly falling snow which rendered exhilarating, but safe, long downhill descents, of which there was no shortage on this network!

The scene of snow gobbled trees we skied through were perhaps due to the heavenly handiwork of St. Adolphe himself, patron saint of forest decoration?

Upon our final return, the usual après ski over hot refreshments was not practical in this “socially distanced” era, given that the St. Adolphe reception facilities are, alas, not that spacious. So good-byes were uttered in the car park as we battled with brushes and scrapers to clear our vehicles of the accumulated snow and ice! All in all, a dull and overcast day had been brightened with that now oh so rare commodity.....like-minded company!

Derek