

Viking Thursday Tour Report for 4th February 2021

Destination: Trail Network “The 2-Vals”, shorthand for:
Reserve Naturelle du Parc Régional de Val-David – Val-Morin
(Rendezvous at Chalet Far Hills)

Summary: Skied 6+6 km out and back to Chalet Anne-Piché, taking some 3hrs including lunch stop.

Weather: As idyllic as we could have wished for! Blazing sun, no wind and temperatures hovering around zero.

Far, far away in a distant Laurentian galaxylies the Far Hills, the destination for our politically correct gender balanced six-some Viking family of ski-nauts! Upon arrival at the Far Hills galaxy-sized car park, one parts company with a VISA tap for \$17 facilitated by a selfie stick extended out of the entry booth window. Should be noted that at weekends, entry here is limited to local residents and season pass holders only.....such is the pandemic popularity of Far Hills. Even upon our mid-week arrival, I counted some 60 vehicles in the car park.....is this a ski centre, or Covid vaccination centre?



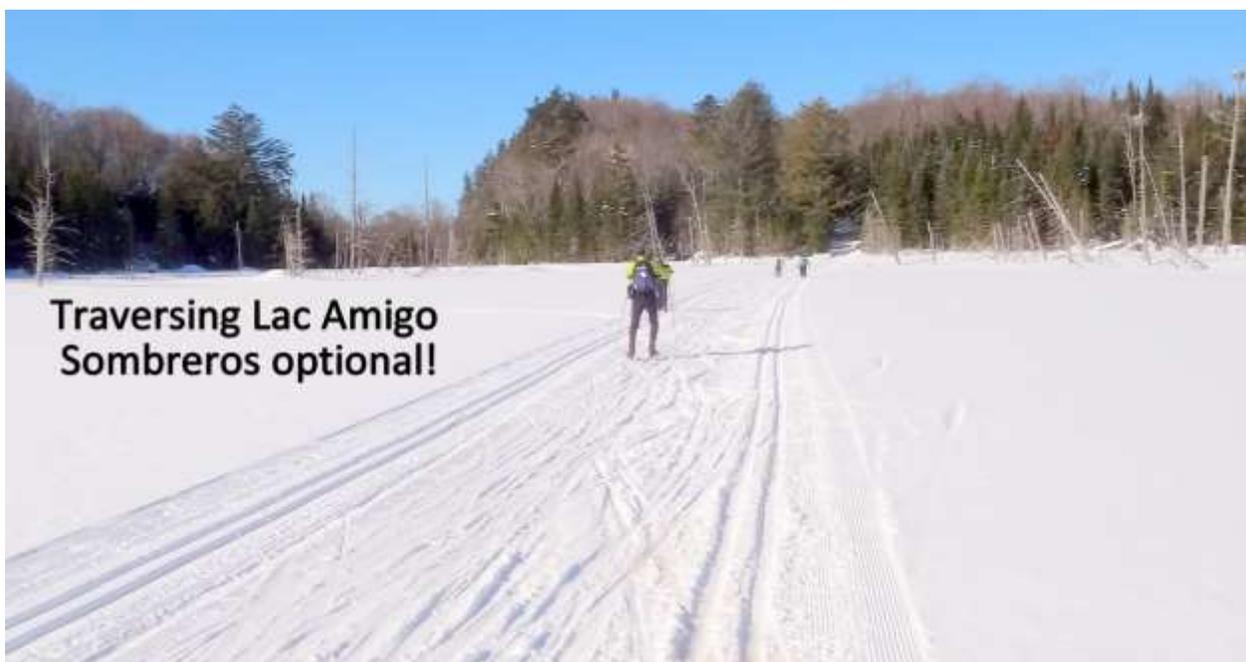
We could perhaps be accused of being creatures of habit inasmuch we set off on the usual all too familiar trails en route to the Chalet Anne-Piché lunch stop, namely:

The Sud-Ouest (No.5), Mont King (No.7)

Maple Leaf (No. 1) which we sampled in all 3 flavours Easy, Difficult and Very Difficult!

And The 2-Vals (No.33).

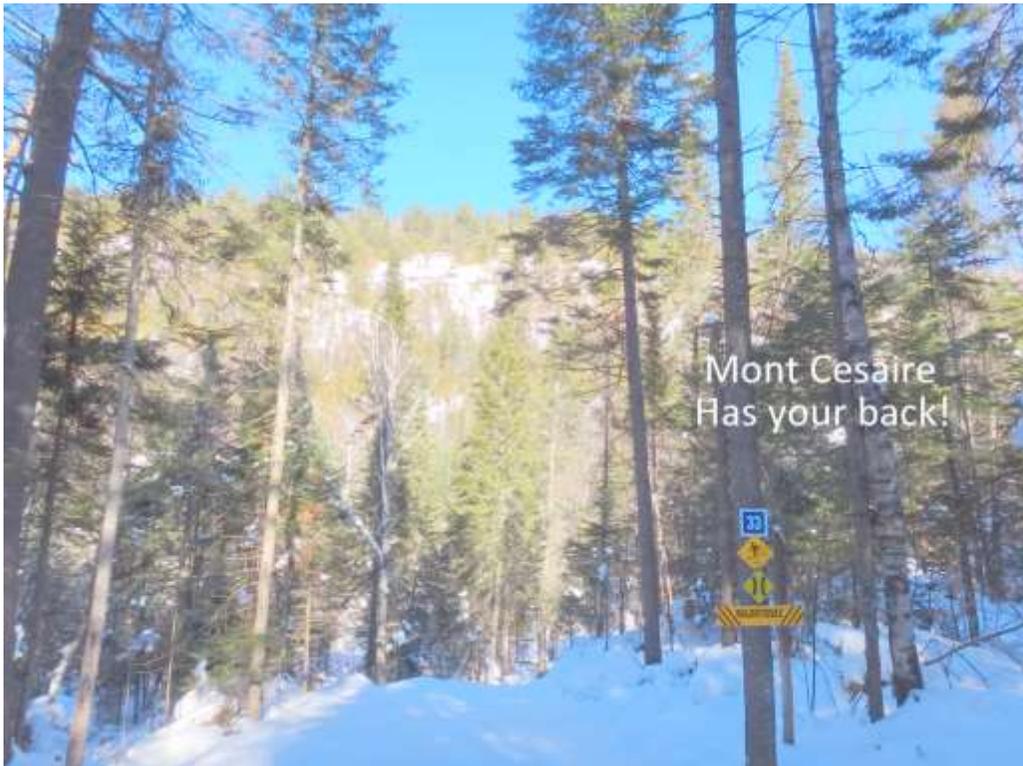
Early on, we ski cross the one and only lake, curiously called Lac Amigo. We can only assume this is related to the friendly avian community (Hérons?) that have a string of elevated nests, prime real estate which offers them a spectacular view over this lake. No evidence of any activity, so presume they do what snow-birds do, and head off down to Florida for the winter. Lucky for them, upon their spring return flights, they will innocently over-pass any border Covid testing regulations!



At noon we make a timely arrival at the Chalet Anne-Piché. Normally we would enjoy lunch warmly within, accompanied by purchases of hot refreshments, but in this pandemic environment, its “off-limits”. However, blessed with phenomenal spring-like weather, we were able to comfortably enjoy our lunches sitting on the outside wooden benches.



**We enjoy a Vitamin D lunch
at closed Chalet Anne-Piche**



**Mont Cesaire
Has your back!**

Historically, this wonderful ski network has had its fair share of landowner conflicts, in particular around the Chalet Far Hills area. Now, as can be seen from the latest network map in the area north of the Chalet Anne-Piché (marked in red), a new landowner conflict has arisen, with the blocking off of several key trails which provide access to Mont Césaire and the famous Gillespie trail. Fortunately, our return to Chalet Far Hills via the 2-Vals (No.33) was not affected as it skirts along this newly disputed area.



A delightful long rundown on the Maple Leaf (No.1) brings us finally back to the Far Hills car park, following which we would normally retire into the spacious upper floor of the Chalet to participate in some apres-ski hot chocolates etc.....dream on.....alas no longer possible in this pandemic era!

Derek