

Viking Thursday Tour Report for 11th February 2021

Viking Touring Trail network

Summary: Skied some 10 km (~ 3hrs) on Crown East, Crown West, and Red trails, including 4 lake crossings. A nippy -14 Deg. C but brilliant sunshine to compensate. Fresh track set trails, all thanks to the diligent Pierre who we encountered "at work!"

A gender balanced seasonal record breaking 10 "Empire Loyalist" showed up at the Viking carpark, eager to amuse Queen Victoria by indulgence on her Crown East and Crown West trails!

It has to be admitted that initial access to the Crown East is a little messy inasmuch one has to road-walk several gritty 100 m, from the so-called "Ruins" (trail junction "D"). Once on this trail, memories of autumn trail clearing are ignited as one recalls how swampy some stretches are with seemingly unavoidable wet feet resulting from sinking boots! Fast forward to winter conditions and a couple of double pole pushes has you gliding over this autumn liquid mess in seconds!

After some 2 km with nice run downs, the Crown East trail concludes at Lac Dey, which has to be traversed, luckily for us, wind-free, to reach the Crown West trail at junction "G4".

Photo Credit: Chris Neal



A Vitamin D stop on Lac Dey
Conclusion of the Crown East Trail

We then climb up the steep hill to reach the appropriately named Lac Hills. It was this very hill, skied down rather than up, that was part of the "old days" 33 km Loppet route. For safety considerations, there would be a Loppet volunteer at the top to warn race participants to "slow down!"

We traverse Lac Hills, which should from our experience perhaps be re-named "Lac Chills" to match the winds that accompanied our ski across it! Upon arrival at the sun drenched far side, we are greeted by fellow Viking Henry (Nesvadba) who has a residence nearby.

At trail junction "G" we stop to "gas up" with a liquid refreshment break, then continue westward on the Crown West to traverse Lac Sylvain. Then homeward bound we ski end to end across Lac Edouard, curiously passing a parked by-plane.....abandoned by Air Canada? No evidence of any check-in counter within sight...so we must ski on!

Derek

