

VIKING SKI CLUB



TRAIL MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

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NOTICE

At the start of the 2009/10 season, the Red, Green and Yellow trails in the vicinity of Intersection W have been closed to skiers by the private landowner. The trail descriptions below tell skiers about the options to bypass the closed trails.

1. Introduction

This trail description is written to help skiers, especially those unfamiliar with the trails, find their way around the trail network. It is updated from time to time to coordinate with the Viking Trail Map and Racing Trail Map and should help interpret the signs. As a stand-alone document, it gives a good idea of what our trails are like.

The overall Viking network is about 50 km in length including about 10 km on the Racing Trails near the clubhouse. The network comprises both hilly and flatter sections, requiring varying levels of skill as a function of skiers' individual experience, snow and weather conditions as well as waxing variables. It should be noted that Viking is not a commercial operation, but a not-for-profit volunteer club with modest resources. The trails are not patrolled or "swept" at the end of the day as may be the case at commercial centres. The club's resources for winter trail maintenance and track setting are deployed on a priority basis after snowfalls, and some time delay for completion may occur. Users of the network should be equipped with adequate map information of adjacent trail networks which join the Viking network. Members can obtain colour maps of the Viking trails from the club's website <http://www.vikingskiclub.ca>. Maps are usually also available at the clubhouse (not open during weekdays) in black and white format. Since most of the Viking trails are on private land, it has been necessary over the years to adjust trail routings due to landowners' development work or restrictions which sometimes occur on short notice. Some time delay might therefore occur before maps and site markings are adjusted. It should be emphasized that our skiing on private lands depends on the goodwill of property owners. We must show consideration for their right to privacy. Please treat the land as if it were your own, and be polite to anyone you meet on the trail – it could be the owner of the land. It is important not to leave litter such as broken ski equipment, paper tissues and "lunch-stop" leftovers. Pack out everything you pack in. Also, please resist the temptation to cut through owners' gardens or driveways.

Although our network is not extensive, it is considered demanding by most. Users should be in sufficiently good physical condition for intended outings and be appropriately dressed and equipped, taking temperatures and potential precipitation into account. It is also recommended that users bring a minimum of safety gear along such as space blankets in case of immobilization, spare ski tip, and food and liquid as required. As well they should travel in groups of three and set out sufficiently early in the day to complete planned undertakings. In these days of common cell phone usage, bringing one along could be very useful should something unexpected occur, though cellular coverage on the trails is poor. Skiers using the Viking network do so of their own free will and assume all responsibilities and risks when doing so.

This trail description was originally written by Viking member (at that time) Guy Hanchet in 1996. It has been updated by Viking member, Chris Teron, with input from many other members.

2. Trail Map

<http://www.vikingskiclub.ca/en/members/maps.pdf>

3. Racing Trail Map

<http://www.vikingskiclub.ca/en/members/maps.pdf>

4. Signs & Standards

Each of the various trails has been assigned a colour (green, red, blue, yellow, orange). All along the trails, there are 4" by 6" plastic signs of that colour attached to trees. In addition, you may find ribbons of the same colour tied to branches. The coloured version of the trail map uses lines of the same colour to show the trails. Some trails are shared (see the descriptions below) and signs of both colours are mounted on the trees and shown on the map. The colours do not indicate the level of difficulty.



All major intersections on Viking trails have been assigned a letter from A to Z and are marked with 4" by 6" blue plastic signs. The letter on the sign corresponds with a letter on the map. These signs, like the trails, tend to move around a bit from year to year. Where possible, we have placed them on trees so they are visible from the normal direction of travel.





At some of the major intersections, trail maps are displayed in weatherproof map housings.

While the Viking trails appear to be an isolated network of trails that make a closed system, this is misleading. Other trails from surrounding areas cross our trails and often share them. In particular, the Morin-Heights network of trails connects to Viking trails in many places and these intersections also have letters assigned to them. The Lac Notre-Dame trails also connect in a few places. Non-Viking trails are shown on the trail map in dashed black lines.

Some additional descriptive signs can be found along the trails. These signs show the direction back to the clubhouse, or show the direction to turn for a certain trail.

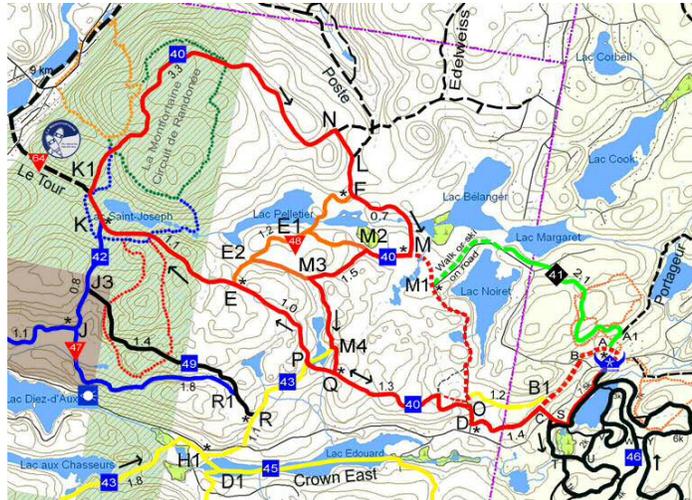
The rest of this description will describe the routes of several of the normal tours that you can take from the Viking clubhouse on our major trails. There are other trails indicated on the map, and we encourage their exploration, as they will get you farther from the crowds, one of the pleasures of cross-country skiing.

5. Red Trail (11.4km)

The Red trail is also intended to be skied in a clockwise direction and the signs are installed with this preference in mind.

It shares the trail with the Green until **O** where you turn left and climb sharply for about 1.3 km. There are two tricky descents just before **P**. New for the 2009/10 season, the section of Red trail between **O** and **P** is no longer one way and you might encounter skiers coming toward you, climbing the steep hills as you descend them. Beware.

At **P**, where the Yellow trail crosses in a large opening in the woods, continue climbing north-west. Near the top of the climb at **E**, the Orange trail leaves on your right. It is not normally track set, but offers a nice back-country shortcut back to the return of the Red trail.



The Red trail starts to descend shortly after **E**, then passes the Blue trail at **K**. Shortly after, at **K1**, there is a trail off to your left, called Le Tour, which goes down to the Aerobic Corridor at Montfort.

After **K1**, the trail passes through the Montfort Meadows (fields that were cleared by the former Lisbourg orphanage) and starts to climb, seemingly forever and just when you think you're at the top, it climbs some more. At its peak, the trail reaches 505 m above sea level, which is 143 m above the clubhouse elevation. Shortly after the trail starts back down, it enters an area that was recently logged; where the trail once went through beautiful forest, part of it now follows the remains of a logging road. Take care not to miss the sharp right turn off the logging road at intersection **N** or you will join the Morin-Heights trails leading to the Aerobic Corridor (Poste and Chevreuil trails) or the Blue Hills district (Edelweiss trail). At intersection **L**, where another map housing is located, you could turn left and join these same Morin-Heights trails again. At **M**, the Red trail meets up again with the back-country Orange trail that was described above, then meets a plowed driveway. Skiers used to ski along the driveway but the owners do not want this to happen. Instead, cross the driveway and follow a short new trail through the woods, parallel to the driveway, until you reach a major road, Montée Hurtubise, and an intersection sign **M1** on a hydro pole. At **M1**, there are two choices. You may turn left onto the gravel road around Lac Noiret and take the Green trail back to the clubhouse, avoiding the short section of Red trail that is closed around intersection **W**. Or, you may ski along the west/right bank of the road until it re-joins the normal route after intersection **W** and finally down to Jackson Road, the Ruin and intersection **D**. Turn left and ski parallel to Jackson Road. You will pass **C**, which is the turn-off to the Racing Trails, then **B1** where the yellow trail leads off to the left, then you will cross Montée Hurtubise at **B** and finally reach **A** and the clubhouse.

6. Green Trail (4.7km)

The Green trail is intended to be skied in a clockwise direction and the signs are installed with this preference in mind. However, the first half of the trail, until M1, is shared with the Red and Yellow, where skiers will be travelling in the opposite direction.

Leave from intersection A behind the clubhouse and go west, parallel to Jackson Road, on a winding trail through the woods. The Green, Red and Yellow trails share this first part of the route so you will see trail signs of all three colours.



At B you must cross the road, Montée Hurtubise, which leads to Lac Noiret, and continue through the woods. Further along, turn left at B1 (where the Yellow trail heads off to the right), and then proceed past C, which would take you down to the Racing Trails.

At D, known as "the Ruin" (there used to be the old foundation of Schneider's farm there), turn right onto a wide trail on a former road and start climbing. Go straight past O (where the Red trail leaves on your left).

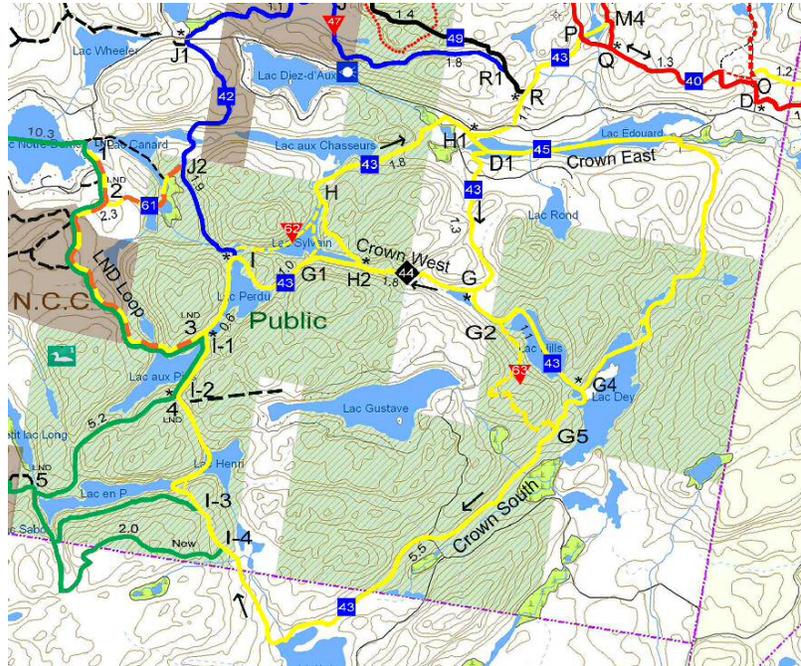
A short section of trail between O and M1 has been closed to skiers by the private landowner. Until this problem is resolved, the trail is being re-routed onto the side of the road around Lac Noiret. Shortly after O, the new trail turns right from its normal path and onto the road. This part of the road is a dead-end and is used by very few cars, but skiers must still use caution. This detour joins up with the short section of trail that has always been on the side of the road and which continues to a sharp right turn in the road at intersection M1. At this point, the ski trail appears to continue straight down a logging road. Do not go straight on the logging road, as it is the Red trail. Instead, turn right and continue to ski or walk along the main road for approximately 750 metres, then watch for signs and ribbons after a log cabin chalet that will lead you back into the woods on the left side of the road. If you choose to ski, beware of loose gravel that can grab your skis, causing damage to you and/or your skis.

The next part of the trail follows the south-west shoreline of Lac Margaret until it crosses a gravel road, Chemin du Trois Lacs, leading to the east half of the lake. Just after crossing the road, the trail has been re-routed and shortened in 2009/2010 to bypass a private landowner. The last part of the trail is generally downhill with several switchbacks to reduce the steepness. Shortly before the end of the trail, at intersection **A1**, you will find the Portageur trail, an old trail that takes you toward Morin-Heights. When you return to **A**, turn left and return to the clubhouse.

While this trail is one of the shortest loops from the clubhouse, the green colour does not indicate that it is a beginner trail. The middle third, from **D** to **M1**, has a long gradual climb. The last section, after Lac Margaret, has steep downhill sections with sharp turns.

7. Crown

To start any of the Crown trails, proceed along the Green trail to intersection **B1**, turn right and follow the Yellow trail to **O**. New for the 2009/10 season, most of the Yellow trail between **O** and **P** has been closed by the private land owner, so skiers must take the Red trail to **P** instead. At intersection **P**, a map housing confirms your location. Turn left at **P** and continue on an old logging road to **R** (where you have the choice of turning right onto the Blue trail) and finally continue downhill until the trail meets Jackson Road, which you will have to cross with skis in hand. Take care in fast conditions as you may have difficulty stopping as you reach the road.



After crossing Jackson Road, the trail continues along the side of the road until just before the Lac Rond road. At intersection **H1**, turn left and descend the steep hill onto Lac Edouard and intersection **D1**. This is where you choose which Crown Trail to take.

If you choose to turn left at **D1** on Lac Edouard, you will be taking the **Crown East** trail to Lac Dey. Since the connection link from the Ruin was closed, and there is active logging in one area, the Crown East trail is not used by many and is not maintained or track set. At **G4**, at Lac Dey, you can turn right and continue to **G** on the Crown West trail, or turn left and join the Crown South trail.

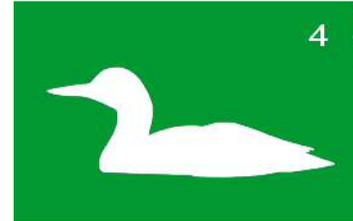
If you turn right at **D1** on Lac Edouard, you will continue along the Yellow until intersection **G**. Here you must choose either the short Crown West loop (to the right) or the long Crown South loop (to the left).

Crown South is a long and beautiful loop and takes you the furthest from the clubhouse. After leaving intersection **G**, the trail crosses Lac Hills. As you are coming toward the end of Lac Hills, look for a new trail heading off toward the right shoreline. It is a new bypass that prevents skiing down onto Lac Dey and back up again. If the bypass is not in use, then right after Lac Hills, there is a steep downhill that takes you onto the edge of Lac Dey at marker **G4** where the Crown East trail joins.

Over a kilometre after the lakes, you will cross the Lac Gustave Road, where you will want to remove your skis. At the road, turn right and walk a short distance, 50 meters, along the road until you find the trail resuming on your left. A kilometre after crossing the road, you will pass alongside Lac de la Montagne. The trail then does a long and gradual climb up a shallow valley. Near the top of the valley, you will join a wide summer logging road. Part way along, look for a new intersection, **I-3**, which is the start of a new Lac Notre Dame trail. You may wish to take it as a huge detour around the steep downhill just ahead on the Crown South trail. Assuming that you stay on the Crown, at the bottom of the big hill, the trail arrives on Lac en P. As soon as you are on the lake, turn sharp right and continue on

the lake, across a beaver dam, and onto Lac Henri. Turn left on Lac Henri and the trail resumes in the woods at intersection **I-2**.

A short distance after Lac Henri, after climbing a through valley and crossing a stream, there is an intersection and the trail to the left is the second place to start the large loop around the south and west sides of Lac Notre-Dame. This is intersection **LND 4**. Intersections with LND trails are marked with LND lake association signs (a green sign with a loon). The LND trails shown on the map in solid Green will now be trackset by Viking.

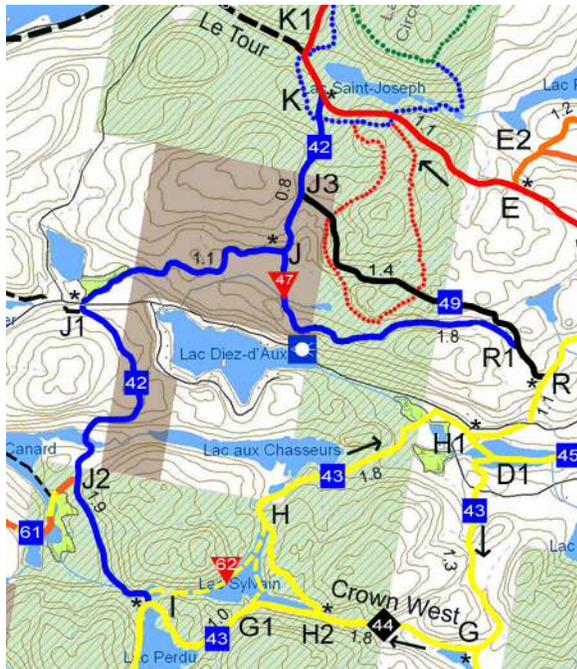


Soon after, at **I-1** and **LND 3**, you will find the start of the short Lac Notre-Dame Loop on the east side of that lake. It is often trackset by Viking. After passing Lac Perdu on your right, and standing on top of a large beaver dam, the Blue trail will be on the left at intersection **I**. The Yellow trail continues around the other side of Lac Perdu and finally joins the Crown West trail at **H2**. Turn left, taking the Crown West back to Jackson Road and retrace your steps back to the clubhouse. At **I**, you could have also taken the shortcut on Lac Sylvain directly to **H**.

When re-tracing your steps, remember that you will be skiing "backwards" on the Red trail between **P** and **O**. Beware when climbing two steep hills in this section as you may meet skiers coming down these hills.

Crown West is a short loop that will bring you back to Jackson Road. Shortly after **G** is a very steep up hill. At least, it is short. Beware of skiers who may be coming down in less than full control. After continuing up a valley, turn right at **H2**, passing beside Lac Sylvain, passing marker **H**, and continuing downhill toward **H1** on an old road. Just before reaching Jackson Road, the old roadway becomes a plowed driveway. Walk along the side of Jackson Road, until you reach the Lac Rond road and re-join the trail at **H1**.

8. Blue and Black Trails



At intersection **I**, off the Crown South, you proceed down a shallow valley which opens into a swamp at the bottom. There is a well used trail exiting on your left at **J2**, which is the other end of the short Lac Notre-Dame loop. After crossing the swamp, climb up the opposite side, and come down again at Jackson Road at **J1**. Be careful, as there is little room to slow down before the road. Cross Jackson Road and pass through mature forest to **J**.

Here, the blue trail splits into two parts. Turn left and you will make a long gradual climb to the top of a ridge, and then descend the other side of the ridge to **K** and the Montfort Meadows. Turn right and you will take the Blue Ridge trail with its beautiful vistas overlooking Lac Diez-d'Aux. This trail, from **J** to **R1**, is well marked, never trackset, and quite rugged.

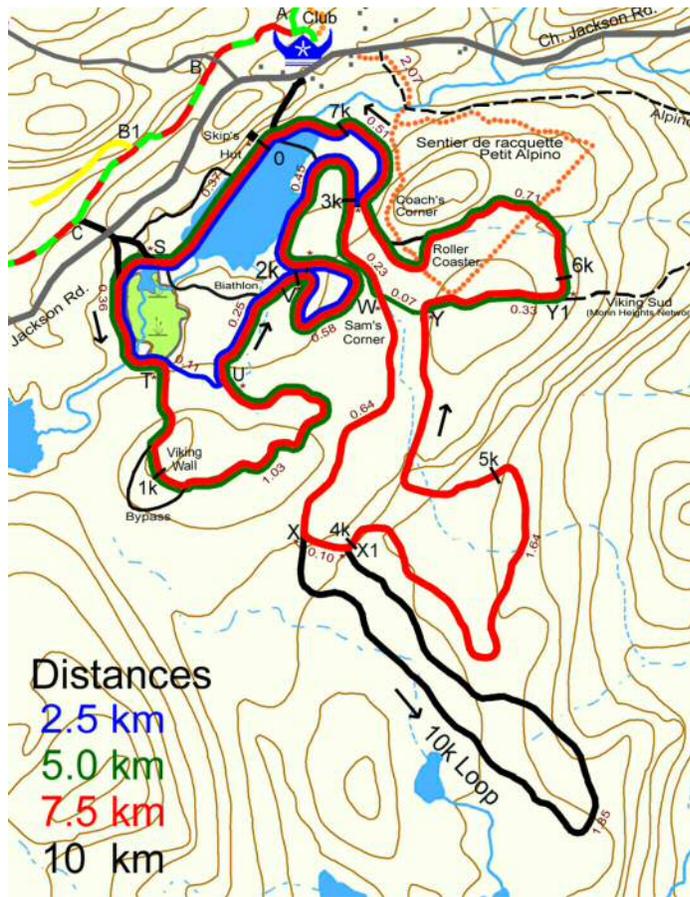
9. Black Trail

Another option back to the clubhouse is to take the new Black trail, formerly called the Blue Ridge bypass trail, that has recently been opened using an old logging road. Half way along the Blue between **J** and **K**, near the crest of the ridge, turn east at **J3**. The trail follows the high ground with beautiful vistas. It meets up with the Blue Ridge trail at **R1** and, together, they join the Yellow trail at intersection **R**. Part of the trail near **R1** has been re-routed to avoid a very steep hill.

Crown South/Blue/Red Combination – 23.5 km

For the longest possible loop on the Viking network (without adding in the Racing Trails), follow the description above for the Crown South trail until reaching intersection **I** at Lac Perdu. Instead of continuing on the Crown trails, turn left onto the Blue trail. Follow the Blue trail to its end at **K** where it joins the Red trail. Take the Red trail back to the clubhouse.

9. Racing Trails – (up to 10km)



The Racing Trails, just south of the clubhouse, are very different from the other trails. They are the only trails with guaranteed access thanks to an agreement with the landowner, *Skip Sheldon*, a former Viking president. Designed to hold world class racing events, they are a series of loops. We use them for many purposes including Youth Program instruction, training and occasional races such as Loppet events, Club Championships, etc.

Don't be misled by the name. The trails are not just for racing, but are used by all members all the time. Because of the good road base under the trails, they are the first to be opened and trackset at the beginning of the season and the last to be closed.

Think of the racing network in terms of a very small central loop around the pond, sometimes called the Bunnyrabbit loop, which you should ski counter-clockwise. There are spur trails off the inner loop, which can add to the distance. While there are numerous

combinations that are possible, there are four main routes of increasing length that are identified with signs at all the main intersections – the 2.5 k, 5 k, 7.5 k and 10 k loops. Each of the four has a colour and these colours are used on the signs and the Racing Trail map.

In addition to the trail designations, there are four places on the trails that have names; *The Wall*, *Coach's Corner*, *Sam's Corner*, and *The Roller Coaster*. Other suggestions are welcome.

The Racing Trails start at the pond in front of Skip's Hut. After 1 km, you can turn right at **T** onto the first possible loop, which will take you up the Viking Wall spur (1km). As the name suggests, the trail climbs a steep hill and descends very steeply down the far side. There is a bypass for those who are intimidated by the hill. The trail rejoins the main loop at **U**. Similarly, at **V** you could turn up a short spur which adds another 600 m to the main inner loop.

2.5 km	→
5.0 km	→
7.5 km	→
10 km	→

Shortly after you pass the opening back onto the pond, you could turn left and back downhill at Coach's Corner and return to the pond. Otherwise, continue straight to **W**, which is Sam's Corner, named after *Sam Stallard*, one of the original landowners. Turn left there to take the 5 km loop, or continue straight to take the 7.5 km or the 10 km loops.

At **X**, turn left to return on the 7.5 km or go straight for the 10 km loop which rejoins the 7.5 km at **X1** about 100 m farther. Either way you will rejoin the 5 km loop at **Y**, where you should turn up to the right. Turning left would take you back to Sam's Corner.

Only two trails lead out of the racing network. At **S**, just east of Skip's Hut, you can cross Jackson Road and join the Red/Green trail at **C**. At the descent between **Y** and Coach's Corner, at intersection **Y1**, the Viking Sud trail belonging to the Morin-Heights trail network, leads to highway 329 and eventually to the Triangle trail and Morin-Heights.