

## Viking tour report Monday Feb 20<sup>th</sup> Parc Régional Val-Morin Val-David

Sunday night and Monday morning, Viking avid skiers were trying to figure out what was happening with ski conditions and the weather which called for late afternoon Flash Freeze Warnings. With the encouragement of Alison Steel who reported no rain in the morning near Morin Heights and lots of fresh snow, we headed to Val Morin.

Mother nature was generous. Despite a light rain on the drive up, the sun came out as we arrived and was shining on and off all day. Fourteen cm of snow fell on Thursday and they had no rain since so the conditions were good. Our group, Jarmila Philip, Howard Bussey and Katherine Walsh enjoyed having Julian Harrison with us who was here for the week from England to visit his family. He will ski the Loppet on Sunday.

We skied the Maple Leaf over to Val David stopping for lunch at the welcoming "Anne Piché" chalet where a blazing fire warmed us. The Maple Leaf trail splits in two with one trail a steep descent which Julian skied and a more gradual one which the rest of us skied. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet Julian at the spot where we have joined up in the past at the bottom of the trails as it was closed off to us. Fortunately, we found him later at the Far Hills chalet. All in all, we were very happy we had ventured out.

Skiing back to the Far Hills Chalet we had fast downhill on the trails around Condor Mountain with beautiful views of the valleys below. KW