

VIKING SKI CLUB



TRAIL MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

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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 62 km in length including about 10 km on the Sheldon 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 many 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. Sometime delays 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, 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, and editing by Judy Rogers. Translation is done by Jean-Pierre Campeau and Nathalie Marchildon.

2. Trail Maps

Full Network: <http://vikingskiclub.ca/uni/maps/trailmap-colour.pdf>

Sheldon Racing Trails: http://vikingskiclub.ca/uni/maps/racing_trails.pdf



Ondago: The same full network map is also available for mobile devices using the Ondago app. The app will show the location of the skier on the map without the need for cellular coverage (as long as the mobile device has GPS capability). If you click on any trail on the map, it will show the distance, degree of difficulty, elevation profile and the same description of the trail as found in this document. If you click on the search button, you will see a list of all trails organized by type.

Skiers are cautioned that mobile devices depend on batteries that do not like cold temperatures. Devices should be kept in a warm place inside clothing and use of an external supplementary battery is recommended. The use of electronic devices should always be done in conjunction with a paper map and good awareness of the skier's location on the trails.

3. Signs & Standards

Each of the various trails has been assigned a name, number, colour (green, red, blue, yellow, orange) and degree of difficulty. Often, the name is the colour.



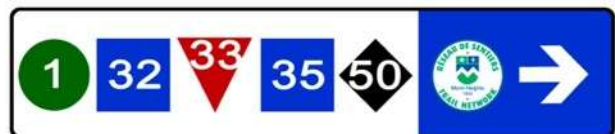
All along the trails, there are 4" by 6" plastic Viking signs attached to trees indicating the trail colour. In addition, you may find ribbons of the same colour tied to branches. The coloured version of the trail map uses lines of the same colour to show the trails. Some trails are shared (see the descriptions 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.



At every intersection, there are aluminium signs indicating the degree of difficulty and trail number, the name, the same 4"x6" coloured Viking logo and a directional arrow for that trail. These signs follow the Quebec

norms so they are similar to the signs used by other ski centres and are especially helpful for non-Viking members and Morin-Heights skiers passing through our network. The trail numbers are coordinated with the Morin-Heights network and are also shown on the Morin-Heights map.

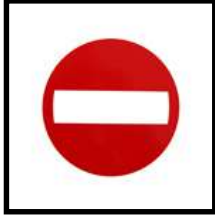
There may also be similar signs at intersections indicating the direction to reach other trails.



All major intersections on Viking trails have been assigned a letter from A to Z and are marked with 4" by 6" blue engraved 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 many intersections, there are signs indicating the direction to return to the Viking clubhouse.



Many of the trails have been designated as one-way. If this is the case, there should be "Do Not Enter" signs just after each intersection showing that you are heading in the wrong direction.



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.

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.



At four points along the Red trail, between **E** and **N**, La Montfortaine snow shoe trails, maintained by the MRC des Pays-d'en-Haut, cross the ski trail. Please do not ski on their snow shoe trails, just as we ask them not to snow shoe on our ski trails.

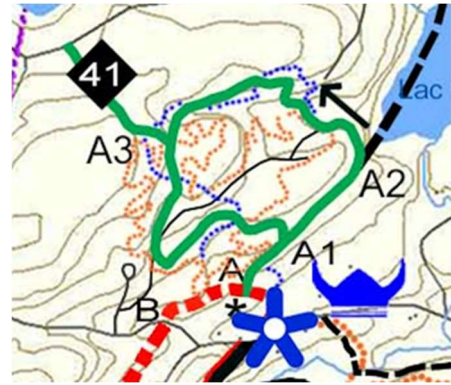


At **F**, the same Orange trail that was previously passed at **E** re-joins the Red trail on the right side.

At **M**, the Red trail meets up again with one branch of the back-country Orange trail that was described above. Skiers used to turn left and ski along the private driveway, or more recently on a trail parallel to the driveway, to **M1** on Ch Noiret and eventually back to intersection **D** at the Ruins. However, much of the return trail has been closed by a landowner so a new route was established near the end of the 2011-12 season. Now, at **M**, turn right instead of left and follow the old Orange trail for a short distance to **M2**, where the Orange trail is straight ahead and the Red Trail turns left. The new trail follows a logging road with many small hills up and down. At new **M3**, the road continues straight to the Orange Trail and the Red Trail turns left again. After **M3**, the narrow trail winds its way among trees in a swamp, so beware early or late in the season for wet conditions. Continue to intersection **M4**. If you were to continue straight, you would be on the start of the Crown South trail. Turn left to continue on the Red trail. This last short new section brings you back to **Q** and the end of the large loop on the Red. Turn left to return to the clubhouse by going in the reverse direction on the trail (beware of skiers coming in the opposite direction) or turn right if you want to keep going in circles.

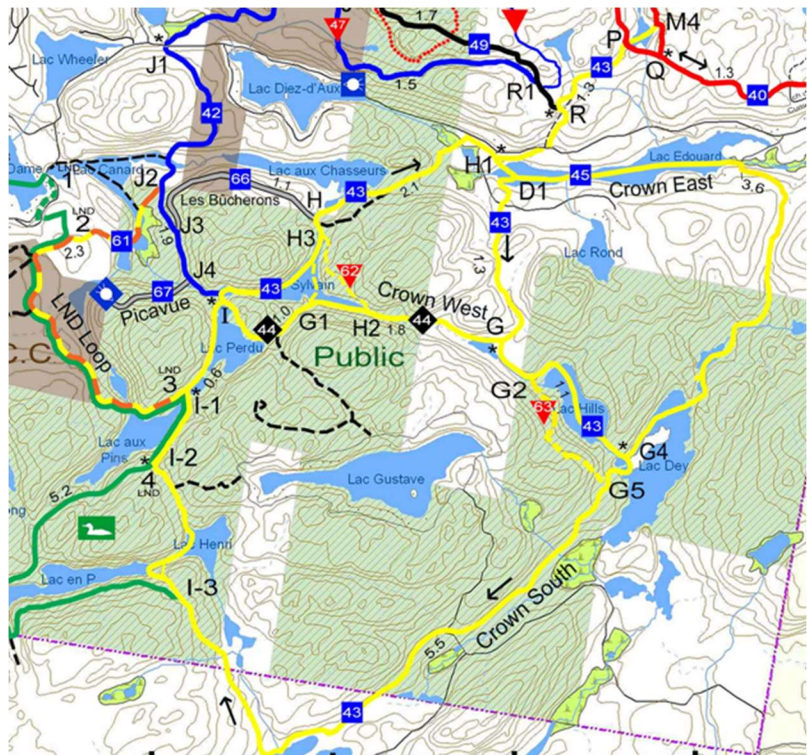
5. Green Trail #41 (2.3 km)

The Green trail forms a nice short loop behind the clubhouse. But don't be fooled by its colour green. It does not mean it's an easy trail; actually, it has some difficult sections resulting in its designation as Expert. Right after leaving the clubhouse, you reach intersection **A**. If you continue straight, you will be on the un-maintained former Red trail. Instead turn right to continue on Green. Soon after, at **A1**, continue straight as the trail is a one-way loop and the trail on the left is the return part of Green. Further along at **A2**, the trail going straight ahead is the Morin-Heights back-country Portageur trail. Instead, turn left to continue on the Green loop and start climbing uphill into the lands owned by Viking family who built this new section of the trail and generously allow us to ski there. They also built the extensive network of snowshoe and orienteering trails that you will often cross. The trail continues through beautiful rugged forest terrain. Further along, at **A3**, the trail continues straight while the trail to the right follows the path of the former green trail and takes you to Chemin Trois Lacs. Soon after **A3**, the trail starts its descent back to **A1**. The last 100m includes a steep descent and sharp turn.



6. Crown Trails - South #43 (13.8km), West #44 (1.8km), East #45 (3.6km) and bypasses

Crown South: To start any of the three Crown trails, proceed along the Red trail to intersection **P**. Turn left at **P** onto Crown South (Crown South actually starts at **M4**, just a short distance from **P**, but most people start at **P**.) and continue on an old settlers road to **R** (where you have the choice of turning right onto the Black 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 and take note of the warning signs (steep hill, road crossing and stop!) 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**, the one-way loop of Crown South starts. On your right is the return leg of the same trail. Turn left and descend the steep hill onto Lac Edouard and intersection **D1**. Turn right to continue on Crown South or left for a longer ski on Crown East which rejoins Crown South at Lac Dey. Assuming that you chose

to stay on Crown South, then as soon as you leave Lac Edouard, turn and climb a steep hill on a path dedicated by the cottage owner. At the top of the hill, cross Chemin du Lac Rond, which can normally be done without removing your skis. The trail continues along an old road through an open field, then gentle hills and through a wet section before reaching the next major fork at intersection **G**. Turn right for Crown West or continue straight for Crown South.

The main part of Crown South after **G** is a long and beautiful loop that takes you the furthest from the clubhouse. After leaving intersection **G**, as you approach Lac Hills, at **G2**, the trail on the right is a bypass around Lac Hills and Lac Dey which is used when the lake conditions are not good for grooming or skiing and which avoids a steep hill. Bear to the left at **G2** to stay on the main trail and cross the lakes. 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. Soon after Lac Dey, at **G5**, the bypass trail rejoins the main trail.

Over a kilometre after the lakes, you will cross the Lac Gustave Road, where you will want to remove your skis. 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, the trail leaves the road and enters the forest with a short but steep uphill climb. As you leave the road, you might see ski tracks or even tracksetting continuing on the road down to Lac Henri. This is the old route of the Crown South trail that crosses private property. We are not prohibited from skiing there but we cannot show the trail on maps or install signage. Continuing on the proper trail in the woods, look for intersection **I-3** where you have two options. If you turn left, you will take a long detour around Lac en P and join the Lac Notre Dame loon trail for a kilometer before re-joining Crown South at **I-2** and you will avoid a very steep difficult hill on the main trail. Assuming that you stay on Crown South, at the bottom of the big steep 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.

A short distance after Lac Henri, after climbing a through valley, crossing a stream and passing a side trail to Lac Gustave on the right, 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 **I-2** and **LND4**. Intersections with LND trails are marked with LND lake association signs (a green sign with a loon). The two LND trails shown on the map in solid Green are normally trackset by Viking.



Soon after, at **I-1** and **LND3**, you will find the start of the short LND Loop on the east side of that lake. It is also trackset by Viking. Turn right and ski on an old road, passing Lac Perdu on your right, until you are standing on top of a large beaver dam at intersection **I**. The trail on the right that continues around Lac Perdu is Crown West that takes you back to intersection **G**. Instead, turn left on the trail that is both Crown South and Blue. 30m later at a sign post, turn right to stay on Crown South, while Blue heads to the left. The trail heads down a small valley and then crosses Lac Sylvain. At the north end of the lake, re-join the forest at **H3** (where a back-country trail continues around Lac Sylvain back to Crown West) and continue another 100m to a new logging road at intersection **H**. If you continue straight on the logging road, you will be on the new trail called Les Bûcherons (the lumberjacks in French) heading to the Blue. Instead, turn right to continue on Crown South. The trail will soon re-join that logging road, which turns into a plowed private driveway. At the end of it, you will have turn to right and walk a short section on the side of Jackson Road until you meet Chemin du Lac Rond. Re-enter the woods here, near **H1**, and retrace your steps back to **P**.

At **P**, continue across the Red Trail and across a swamp, climbing a hill through the woods until you reach the end of Crown South at **M4**. Turn right onto the Red and ski back to the clubhouse. When re-tracing your steps, remember that you will be skiing "backwards" on the Red trail after **Q**. Beware when climbing the steep hill in this section as you may meet skiers coming down these hills. As an alternative, at **P**, you could have turned left and skied the full Red trail back to the clubhouse.

Crown West: This trail is a short cut between **G** and **I** of the Crown South trail. After leaving **G**, cross a small beaver pond (early or late in the season when the ice is thin, you will have to detour along the north shore), then follow the creek to Lac Sylvain. Part way along, there is a very steep hill that gives this trail its "Expert" degree of difficulty. Beware of skiers coming down the steep hill in less than full control. Continue along the south shore of Lac Sylvain, then along the east shore of Lac Perdu before reaching intersection **I**.

Crown East: This trail offers a longer, scenic route than the Crown South, starting at **D1** on Lac Edouard and finishing at **G4** on Lac Dey. On both lakes, there are the inherent issues of slush under the snow and thin ice at each end of the season. There are no detours along the shore lines, so it is best to use this trail in the middle of the ski season. Some skiers choose to avoid Lac Edouard by starting on Jackson Road and heading down the long driveway at the east end of the lake.

7. Blue Trail #42 (4.0 km) and Blue Ridge #47 (1.6 km)



At intersection **I**, off the Crown South, proceed down a long shallow valley which opens into a logging road at intersection **J4**. On the left, the new trail called Picavue uses the logging road to get to the top of a hill with views to Lac Notre Dame. Turn right heading north on the road. At the next intersection, **J3**, the logging road veers to the right and is the Viking trail called Les Bûcherons, while the Blue trail veers to the left. Slightly further along the Blue is a well-used trail exiting on your left at **J2**, which is the other end of the short LND loop. Shortly after **J2**, the trail crosses the east end of Lac Canard and you will see tracks entering on your left side which are from Lac Notre Dame residents accessing the Viking network. As you leave the lake, 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 a mature forest, skirting the side of a large beaver pond, arriving at **J**.

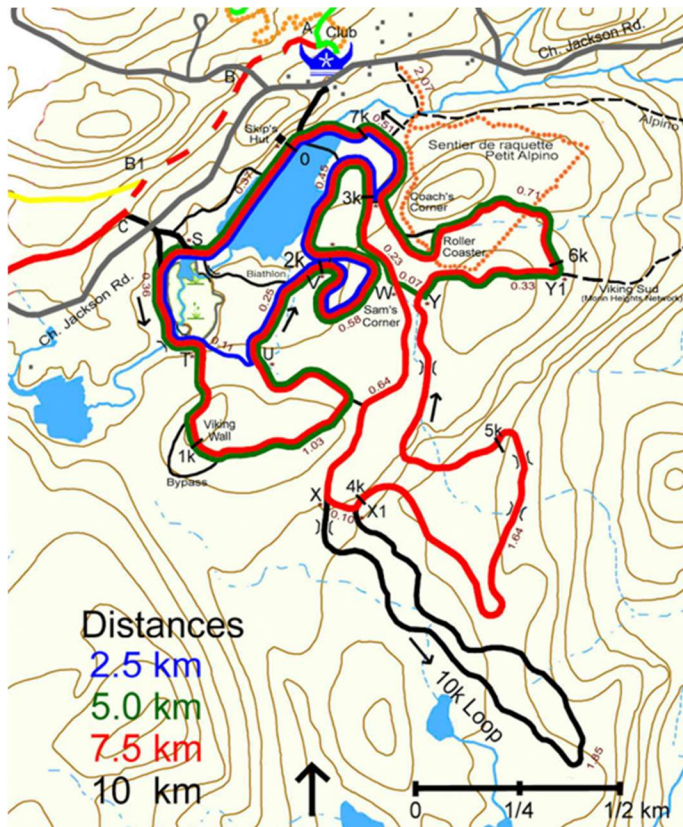
Here, the Blue trail splits into two parts. Turn left and you will make a long gradual climb to the top of a ridge, and then descend the other side of the ridge to **K**, the Red trail, and the Montfort Meadows. Turn right and you will take the Blue Ridge trail with its beautiful vistas overlooking Lac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

8. Black Trail #49 (1.7 km)

Another option back to the clubhouse is to take the Black trail, formerly called the Blue Ridge bypass trail, that uses an old logging road. Half way along the Blue trail, near the crest of the ridge, turn east at **J5**. The trail follows the high ground with beautiful vistas. It meets up with the Blue Ridge trail at **R1** and, together, they join the Crown South trail at intersection **R**. Part of the trail near **R1** has been re-routed to avoid a very steep hill.

At two points along the trail, La Montfortaine snow shoe trails cross the ski trail. Please do not ski on their snow shoe trails, just as we ask them not to snow shoe on our ski trails.

9. Sheldon Racing Trails #46 – (up to 10km)



The Sheldon Racing Trails, just south of the clubhouse, are very different from the other trails. They are the only trails with guaranteed access. They were developed by *Skip Sheldon*, the landowner and 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, etc. Skip recently passed away and the land was acquired by the municipality and a land trust.

Don't be mis-led 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 2.5k, 5k, 7.5k and 10k loops. Each of the four has a colour and these colours are used on the signs and the Racing Trail map.

| | |
|--------|---|
| 2.5 km | → |
| 5.0 km | → |
| 7.5 km | → |
| 10 km | → |

In addition to the trail designations, there are four places on the trails that have names; *The Viking 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.

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 5k loop, or continue straight to take the 7.5k or the 10k loops.

At **X**, turn left to return on the 7.5k or go straight for the 10k loop which rejoins the 7.5k at **X1** about 100 m farther. Either way you will rejoin the 5k 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 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.

10. Amicale Nordic Trail – 10.5 km

The Viking network includes two back country trails that are not groomed – the Orange and Blue Ridge. A resident of Montfort, Pierre Faucher, has recently created additional nordic trails that create a complete loop incorporating the two existing trails. The loop is deemed to start close to the point where the Montfortaine yellow snowshoe trail meets the Aerobic Corridor near the Montfort Pavillion. There is also a nordic trail that crosses the middle of the loop. There are no formal signs at intersections with the ski trails or on the trail but it is marked with blue ribbons. Signs will be added once the trail is more established.

11. Viking Routes

The Green, Red and Sheldon Racing trails form nice loops of varying lengths that start and finish at the clubhouse. Longer routes can be formed by combining multiple Viking trails. Here are some common ones:

- **Crown South from the clubhouse – 19.4 km.** Start at the clubhouse and take the Red trail to intersection **P**. Turn left on the Crown South and do its entire length back to **P**. Continue to **M4**, turn right and return to the clubhouse on the Red.
- **Crown South/Blue/Red – 25.6 km.** For a long loop on the Viking network (without adding in the Racing Trails), follow the description above for the Red trail from the clubhouse to intersection **P**, then turn left on 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. Turn left and take the Red trail back to the clubhouse.
- **CSM Training Trail – 24.1 km.** The Canadian Ski Marathon official training trail combines the Viking Red trail from the clubhouse to intersection **N**, then follows the Morin-Heights trails – Edelweiss, Poste Promenade, Aerobic Corridor, Alternatif, AC, Triangle, Salzburg and Viking Sud, then finish on the Viking Sheldon Racing trails.

