



**Canadian Birkie E-News:
December 2016**

Canadian Birkebeiner Society
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Birkie Feb 10-11, 2017

Spirit of the Ski



This year's theme is ***Spirit of the Ski***. The Birkebeiner is part of a long tradition originating in Norwegian history and the spirit is still here today as you and your family ski or volunteer in the festival!

Share YOUR ski stories on social media, using the hashtag **#birkiespirit** and show us how you embody the Spirit of the Ski!

Register [now!](#)

The next registration deadline before prices increase is January 18 and final registration for all events is February 8, 2017. Don't forget to get your tickets for the [Vikings Feast Celebration](#) which takes place on Saturday, February 11 after the Birkie ski events. Get registration details [here](#).

Birkie Training Programs

Birkie Learn to Loppet (LTL) Whether you aim to improve your skiing skills, finish the 13 km Mini Birkie or improve your personal best time in the 55 km with pack, the Birkie LTL ski lessons will help you achieve your personal goals. Starts January 7th but almost always fills early.



Remember, price increases after December 21 to \$165, so get it now for \$150. [Register now.](#)

Other Great Benefits!:

Free admission for LTL participants to wax clinics (beginner and intermediate) held in January by MEC.

Discounts for LTL participants off Birkie event registration:

\$15 off 55 km events

\$10 off 31 km event

\$5 off 13 km event

Birkie Rookie Package is a new offering in conjunction with the Strathcona Wilderness Centre. If Nordic skiing is new to you and you don't own your own gear, this is a great opportunity (can use your own gear as well). Registration is ongoing through the [SWC Program Guide](#).

Organizing Committee

NOTICE to BIRKIE SKIERS - WE NEED YOU!!!

Taking on a Chief or Assistant Chief role on the Organizing Committee need not preclude you from skiing the race and we really need your skier's perspective. Most tasks can be addressed from home by email or phone, or with short meetings with a few other chiefs.

We need the following Chief/Assistant Chiefs:

Chief of Short Patrol: This official recruits patrollers/controllers for short-course events (13 km and the 2.5 / 4 km Ole's Tour) and supervises the distribution and protocols of the course officials on event day.

Chief of Short Start: This official coordinates the 13 km Mini-Birkie and the 2.5 / 4 km Ole's Tour events and starts.

Assistant Chief of Finish Line/Timing:

Finish Line: Assist the Chief with planning the requirements for the finish area: overseeing finish line zone, finish stewards, traffic flow through the finish line and working with other crews (timing, medical, awards, announcing).

Timing: This official works with our Timing company in responding to timing and results problems/concerns.

Assistant Chiefs: Many other Loppet Committee positions are big enough for two! If you would like to assist one of our existing Chiefs,

or can't commit to a Chief position just yet, we can provide training and mentoring. Be a part of the Legend.

Sign up for these positions [here](#) or contact the [office](#) for more information.

Marketing Updates



The Birkie has Billboards this year! Check out our Birkie Billboards at these three locations:

Calgary Trail (south)
Gateway Boulevard (south)
99 Street (south)



We are proud to announce the launch of the Canadian Birkie Blog!

Check it out for some great articles filled with inspiring Birkie stories, tips and insight into skiing the Canadian Birkebeiner. These articles will also be shared on our social media so be sure to follow.

Visit the blog: <http://canadianbirkie.com/canadian-birkie-blog>

Share your memories, challenges, and triumphs, and help us maintain this amazing tradition - 28th Canadian Birkie Feb 10-11, 2017. #SpiritOfTheSki

Check out our [brochure](#), [poster](#), digital billboards and join in on our social media posts!

Call for Nominations



Ana Lucas Osma, 2016 recipient of the Ole Hovind Award

Calling for Nominations for the 2017 Ole Hovind Award

Each year, at the Vikings' Feast banquet, a number of awards are presented to recognize outstanding achievements or remarkable contributions to the Canadian Birkebeiner Society.

The Ole Hovind Award is presented annually to the skier who best represents the spirit of the Birkebeiner and the values which Ole demonstrated – skiing for the sheer joy of it, having fun, joking a lot, achieving something and just getting out there and doing it.

This year we are inviting you to nominate an individual who typifies the same spirit as Ole, and who has contributed as a skier or volunteer to the Canadian Birkebeiner Festival. Please submit your nomination to ski@canadianbirkie.com and provide an explanation of why the nominee is deserving of this recognition. Nominations will be accepted until January 23rd. A list of past recipients of the award can be found at <http://www.canadianbirkie.com/unique-awards>.

Erika's Tour



Erika Elkington

As we announced earlier this fall, the 31 km has been officially renamed “Erika’s Tour” in honour of Erika Elkington, one of our Birkie skiers who has passed away.

Erika said she strived to live life to the fullest, *“I sign up for random physical competitions just to see if I can do it”*. In 2011 Erika completed her first 31 km, and over the next 4 years finished the 31 and 55 Lite multiple times. When she skied her first 55 km, she said *“It was amazing! Doing (it) really pushed me, everyone should try it once I am so glad I did it.”*

In August 2015, Erika sadly passed away, however her spirit, energy and passion for the Birkebeiner lives on. To honour her, The Erika Legacy Foundation has been set up by her family. The foundation’s purpose unifies us all in a common cause to fund and inspire breakthroughs in the way our communities think, talk & support the contributing factors of suicide, mental health, and general well-being.

We hope you support their cause this year and for many years to come as we welcome the foundation to the Birkebeiner family.

Volunteers



Food Station Volunteers

It takes approximately 550 volunteers to plan, organize and run the Birkie each year. There are many different positions, but some areas where we need the most volunteers are:

Ski Patrol: people are stationed or ski along parts of the courses to marshal skiers, monitor steep hills and support anyone in need of assistance

Long Course Sweeps: the Tail-End Charlies that enjoy a long, slow ski while they make sure every participant makes it off the trail safely

Festival Tent: refreshment service for hungry skiers after the event

Medical: help with first aid and medical treatment that may be needed by participants on course, at the start and finish lines or for volunteers and the general public attending the loppet event

Timing and Finish Line: tasks might include collecting timing chips and assisting skiers at the finish line or running results to the Awards volunteers

Sign up for these or other positions [here](#).

Birkie Board Members



Billboard produced by our Marketing Team

The CBS is thankful to have so many talented and committed board members. Joining the Board of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society is a wonderful way to get involved and to make a significant contribution to the Birkie.

We would like to feature **Leandra Grenier-Green, Marketing Director, and Natalie Kristoff, Director at Large (Marketing)**. These ladies are responsible for the marketing of this years' Birkie event! Their creativity, enthusiasm and good vibes are appreciated by the entire Birkie Family.

They work with a great Social Media Manager (Ricka) and Graphic Artist (Teagan) to make sure that the ski festival is promoted as a fun event for everyone, from competitive skiers to families.

Merchandise



Do not delay! Do your Christmas shopping now.

Jackets, caps, scarves, tuberz, mitts, selfie sticks, books, prints and more! (Tech shirts will be available in January 2017).

The Merchandise Store is [open!](#)

Birkie Lore

Wondering why some skiers are wearing a red, blue or purple cloth bib?

The **Red Bibs** are for participants who have skied the 55 km distance *every* year! There are only 5 of the prestigious red bibs skiers:

Phil Dunn
Klaus Huckfeldt
Andy Lamb
Gerald Streeferk
Paul Zimmerman



Blue Bibs are for participants who have skied the 55 km distance at least 20 years.

Purple Bibs are for participants who have skied the 55 km distance at least 10 years.

You can join the proud bib wearers....start your Birkie Bib Quest with us in 2017!



IN HONOUR OF

