



## The Greatest Adventure on Snow!

Canadian Birkie E-News:  
February 10, 2016



### **Super El Niño Sinks Birkie Events**

Skiers and Canadian Birkebeiner Society (CBS) event organizers all recognize that this winter has been extremely atypical of Edmonton region weather. Dubbed a 'Super El Niño' winter, only 50% of average snowfall came down (30 cm vs. 59 cm) and there were 20% more days above 0° Celsius than normal (41 vs. 33 days from November 1 - January 31). February had an even stronger plus-day trend with virtually a full week with above zero days; it was +12° C in Elk Island National Park Tuesday, February 9! The dearth of snow and overabundance of plus temperature days this winter led to few good ski days and decimation of our Birkie trails this month.

### **Thank You for the Efforts Made to Save the 2016 Birkie**

Snow and weather challenges noted, the Society extends a huge thank you to the volunteers and Alberta Parks and Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village staff who worked very hard, desperately trying to salvage the snow needed, on modified course routes, in an effort to save the event. The extremely warm, sunny and windy days experienced this month were just not something that could be compensated for with human hours and equipment dedicated to snow farming (locating and moving snow onto the courses). With more unseasonably warm weather and no substantial new snow in the forecast for Birkie week, the ski events were, with regret, cancelled on Sat. Feb. 6th. This was done as early as possible, with respect to the many hundreds of skiers who travel here from 100 or more communities across Alberta and Canada, as well as those coming from the US or overseas. This is the first cancellation due to low snow in a decade. The CBS thanks the many skiers who have written or called to express their support of the decision to

cancel, given the conditions this month.

### **2017 Credit for 2016 Birkie Registrants**

By Birkie week, the majority of the budget has been spent or committed for the year and the CBS has an obligation to ensure the sustainability of the event in future years. The Birkie has a similar cancellation policy to virtually all other major marathon events and skiers are notified of the [policy](#) on the registration page of our website and at the beginning of the online registration process.

On Monday, Feb. 8, the Board decided that it would, as it has in the past, reach out to Birkie registrants and warmly welcome them to the next year's event. To that end, **all 2016 Birkie timed-event registrants are eligible for a 15% credit toward their 2017 registration.** So, please plan to register in the Birkie again next year, when we all trust the Super El Niño will be history, Birkie volunteers will have their sleeves rolled up once more to run a great event, and we can all enjoy a fantastic Birkie.

### **Vikings' Feast and Birkie Boogie**



While we may not be able to ski the Birkie this year due to lack of snow, we can definitely get down and celebrate our Birkie spirit and have a great time! SKIERS, VOLUNTEERS and SPONSORS, join us, one and all, at the:

**Vikings' Feast and Birkie Boogie  
Birkie Day - Saturday, February 13, 2016  
Doors at 6:00, dinner at 6:30 (note time change), dance till 11  
Agora Room, County of Strathcona Community Centre,  
401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park**

We've revised our traditional Vikings' Feast evening to include a spectacular evening for us to come together for a night of fantastic food, wonderful entertainment and a chance to burn off all that latent Birkie energy on the dance floor. The evening will feature:

- emcee Nancy Carlson, Anchorwomen from Global TV
- dinner catered by Vicky's
- performance by the Valhalla Scandinavian Folk Dancers
- photo ops with Vikings and their living history set (bring your phone or camera so you can keep your images and share your favourites on your social media)
- inspirational celebration of a few people who have demonstrated exceptional Birkie spirit over the years
- auction of a Birkie original framed watercolour and a pair of antique skis hosted by an extremely entertaining professional auctioneer
- tons of great draw prizes including two major gift certificate

prizes

- dancing to great tunes from a variety of genres played for us by a professional DJ who know how to make a party happen

Order your tickets [here](#) until 11:59 pm on Wednesday, February 10. Don't miss out on this memorable Birkie evening.

See you out on the trails!

