



**Canadian Birkie E-News:
February 2, 2017**

Canadian Birkebeiner Society
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Birkie Feb 10-11, 2017

Spirit of the Ski

Go Birkie, Go!



We are pleased to announce that the 28th Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival - Western Canada's Premier Nordic ski event – is scheduled to go ahead as planned!

Canadian Birkebeiner Society (CBS) volunteers and Alberta Parks' staff have been hard at work designing new courses that follow the best snow and reconditioning parts of existing routes. The colder weather and forecasted chances of snowfall means that between snow harvesting / farming, course adjustments and other remedial work, we will be able to provide the best trails possible.

While we are committed to running the 55 and 31 km events and all short-course events (on adjusted courses), the new 29 km Skate Ski event is not feasible this year despite our best efforts. Registered skate skiers will be given the choice of transferring to one of the other ski events, or opting for a full refund. Please email the [office \(ski@canadianbirkie.com\)](mailto:ski@canadianbirkie.com) to let us know if you wish to change events or ask for a refund. Any refund requests will be addressed after the event.

Revised course maps for the 55, 31 and 13 km events are available on the Ski Event Details pages of our website [here. \(http://canadianbirkie.com/id/686\)](http://canadianbirkie.com/id/686)


For the latest on-trail snow conditions for Birkieland and surrounding areas, please see our [Trail Conditions](#) page.

February 8th is the final day to register for all Birkie events including our [Viking's Feast](#) to be held on February 11th.


Don't forget that if you registered in 2016, you are entitled to 15% off of your 2017 registration fees. If you cannot locate your discount memo, please contact the [office](#) before registering.

Registration details [here](#).



<p>MEC Wax Clinics</p> 	<p>MEC is offering Birkie Wax Clinics at both locations (South Common or Downtown) again this year and there are still dates available.</p> <p>All registered Birkie skiers can register free of charge for the 101 (beginner) and/or the 201 (intermediate to advanced) courses; you need only bring your registration confirmation to your clinic.</p> <p>Choose the one that is best for you. Space is limited; register online at:</p> <p>http://events.mec.ca/node/156411</p>
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<p>Hot Chocolate Sunday</p> 	<p>Please join the Birkie and the Friends of the Blackfoot at the Waskehegan Staging Area of Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area (the Birkie Finish Line and the Start and Finish for short-course events) for the last Hot Chocolate Sunday of the season.</p> <p>Sunday February 4th from 12 – 4 pm</p> <p>You will find a warm fire in the shelter with lovely volunteers offering hot chocolate, cookies and this week we're adding hot dogs to the menu. Show up for some great ambiance with fellow skiers.</p>
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<p>Wax Area provided during the Nordic Fair</p>	<p>For our participants from out of town, a wax area will be provided at the Strathcona Community Centre (same place as the Nordic Fair and Registration Package Pick Up) from noon – 8 p.m. Bring your own waxing equipment and supplies and please remember to clean up when you are done.</p>
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<p>GoChip Technology</p>	
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	<p>This year, our timing and results contractor, Zone4, is introducing GoChip technology for the Birkie. Skiers get a timing chip that will record time from when they actually cross the start line, instead of a mass start time.</p> <p>Timing units will be placed at several Food/Aid Stations to provide livestreamed interim results as well. These units record and transmit each skier's data as they pass, in real time. This information can be used to identify where friends and family members are during the event, when they'll likely finish, etc. A great addition to the Birkie.</p> <p>See our Current Results page for the link to the live results (will be active February 11, 2017).</p>
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<p>Thank You To Our Amazing Sponsors!</p>	<p>Without our wonderful sponsors, the Birkie as we know it would not happen. The Board of Directors would like to thank these wonderful folks for keeping this winter festival affordable to our skiers.</p> <p>Torskeklubben, a club based in the local Norwegian-Canadian community, has been with us for many years as sponsors of the 55 km with pack event, and Spencer Environmental has also been a long-standing sponsor of the 55 km lite. Thanks to local manufacturing firm and core sponsor JV Driver and their new charity, the Erika Elkington Foundation, for supplying plenty of enthusiasm and support. The popular 31 km event is now named Erika's Tour. Our final long course event is the new 29 km skate, sponsored by Bergans of Norway, which unfortunately had to be cancelled this year.</p> <p>Both the City of Edmonton and County of Strathcona provide financial support to the Birkie. Strathcona County is the sponsor of the Nordic Fair at the Community Centre in Sherwood Park.</p> <p>Global Edmonton and E-Construction/Standard General are our two largest in-kind sponsors, providing TV spots on Global to raise awareness, and hauling in those crucial change-room trailers for the end of course.</p> <p>This year's Silver-level sponsors Melcor, Totem Outfitters and Special Event Rentals have contributed cash and in-kind support as well.</p> <p>Our Bronze-level cash sponsors are Lamont County and Ostrem Chemical. Our Bronze Retail sponsors contribute cash and support the Birkie with services like ski-waxing, advertising, tents and prizes. Thanks to Campers Village, Fast Trax, MEC, Salomon, SWIX, Track'N' Trail and United Cycle. Other Bronze sponsors include Lambert Intellectual Property Law and Alley Kat Brewing.</p>
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The many kilometres of wonderful trails are on crown land, so a big shout out to both Alberta Parks staff and volunteers (Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area), and Parks Canada (Elk Island Park) for their help. And of course the long-course events start wouldn't happen without the tremendous support of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.

If you are counting, that is 25 sponsors who provide the Birkie with about \$100,000 worth of services and support. Truly an amazing contribution to our community. Thanks to everyone.

Birkie Board Member



The Birkebeiner Society is very thankful to have dedicated and capable board members. Joining the Board is not only a great deal of fun – just ask ANY Board member – but a wonderful way to contribute to the Birkie.

We would like to recognize Bas Delaney, who is a member of our Loppet Committee as Assistant Chief of Course where he aids with preparing and maintaining the course to ensure the safety of the participants. Bas has also joined the Board in the Program Services position. Swag, Awards and Merchandise are all in this portfolio.

Bas has now skied 18 full Birkies and was awarded the Haakon Haakonsson medal for skiing all three international Birkies in Canada, Norway and the United States.

Thanks Bas for helping out this year and for exemplifying the SPIRIT OF THE SKI!

Merchandise



Caps, scarves, tuberz, mitts, selfie sticks, books, prints and more! (This year's shirt will be available next week).

There are many ways to get your Birkie Swag:

Available now in our [Merchandise Store](#)

Available at the [Nordic Fair / Registration Package Pick Up](#) February 10th

Available in the Festival Tent at the Finish Line / Stadium Area

Available at the [Vikings' Feast](#) February 11th

Please **do not reply** to the newsletter; that email goes to an unmonitored address.
You can email the office [here](mailto:ski@canadianbirkie.com) (ski@canadianbirkie.com)

