



Full moon over Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village (long starts) photo credit JaN Studios

**Canadian Birkie E-News:
February 24, 2017**

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Birkie Feb 10-11, 2017

Spirit of the Ski

Birkie 28



JaN Studios



JaN Studios

WE DID IT!

“We” is all of the skiers, volunteers, sponsors, Alberta Parks and Ukrainian Village Staff and so many others who contributed to the event.

We could not be happier with the 28th Birkie! We are so very thankful for the perfect day that allowed over 1,000 skiers to experience the routes and trails provided by our hard working Alberta Parks team and Birkie Volunteers. Our crew were challenged with pre-event icy conditions, rerouting courses, snow harvesting, and significant remedial trail work. They rose to the challenge and the result was a full range of 55, 31 and 13 km trails that were in very good condition. The 2.5 and 4 km were up to the demands of our younger skiers and we look forward to seeing these kids develop into our future long-distance participants.

Birkie Skiers were thrilled with the results and the day was fantastic in every regard. Exceptional weather, blue skies, good snow, very good tracks, a light breeze, fantastic volunteers, great food...what could be better? The full moon at the long start was spectacular and added a magical ambience to the festivities.

Skiers from 2 - 92 years old persevered, had fun, set personal bests, celebrated and demonstrated the Spirit of the Ski in wonderful fashion. The determination, relief and surprise on many faces at the

finish line (skiers and spectators alike) personified the Birkie. Once again the sunshine-filled “après-ski” vibe at the Festival tent was outstanding!

We are building on the momentum of Birkie 28 and are planning for another successful **29th Birkie FEBRUARY 9-10, 2018.**

THANK YOU!



A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who made the 28th Birkie so very memorable. The **Participants, Volunteers, Sponsors, Partners, Suppliers, Contributors and Donors** allow us to provide an event that is truly a celebration of Skiing, Community and Spirit!

A number of sponsors and suppliers have been with us for a lot of years and we appreciate their constant support and determination. We have several new sponsors/supporters this year and we gratefully acknowledge their contributions and look forward to developing long lasting relationships on and off the trails!

A special thank you to all of our volunteers (450+) who work tirelessly to make every Birkie so very special. The skiers rave about you and we thank you so much for your efforts, contributions and great attitudes at all times! Our volunteers tell us they have as much fun as the skiers which is why so many of them have been Birkie volunteers for multiple years.

We really appreciate those of you who dressed up in Scandic-themed costumes. You add so much to the festivities.

Let us know if you are interested in joining our great group of Volunteers or Sponsors.

Board and Loppet Opportunities

Board

If you would like to get involved with the Birkie, please consider joining our awesome Board. Click [here](#) to see Board Positions. Several spots are up for election at our Annual General Meeting in May.

Loppet

We have over 20 of these critical [volunteer opportunities](#) that deal with everything from Stadium set-up to Timing, Transportation and beyond. The “Chiefs” typically start meeting in the fall and the action really heats up closer to the event. A great chance to use your skills, meet new folks and make a contribution to the 2018 Birkie! Let us know if you are Loppet Chief material!

	Please contact the Coordinator , Allen Jacobson, if you are interested.
Results	<p>Congratulations to everyone who completed their event; well done!</p> <p>The link to results (overall or by age and gender) is available on our website under Current Results. See how you compare to your peers and set your goals for next year.</p>
<p>Medal Collection</p>  <p>55 km Finisher Medallions</p>	<p>Did you remember to pick up your Finisher Medallion for your first time doing a 55 km event? What about your pin for doing a subsequent 55 km event? Did you win a medal in your age group? Check the results and if you earned one but missed the Award Ceremonies (at 12, 1, 2 and 3 pm) in the Festival Tent, please drop by the office to get your hardware.</p>
Lost and Found	<p>If you notice that you accidentally picked up someone else's poles or misplaced some of your own belongings, please call the office (780) 430 7153 or email to arrange pickup of your possessions.</p>
Birkie Training Groups	<p>The Birkie Training Groups (BTG Winter Session, BTG Mid-Week Session and the Learn to Loppet) had their wrap up party right after the Birkie where they shared their Birkie stories and training successes. They are all looking forward to more great skiing and to the 2018 Birkie. Congratulations to all our program participants and to our amazing instructors and coordinators.</p>
Survey	<p>We will be distributing a short skier survey within the next couple of weeks. Please take the time to fill it out as that will help us improve next year's event.</p>
Photos	<p>The 2017 Birkie Slideshow taken by our Birkie Photographers, JaN Studios will be available on our website early next week. Participants</p>



JaN Studios

can view and purchase images on JaN Studio's [website](#) under Proofs. Visit their Blog first at www.janstudios.com/news to get login and password information for each gallery (start, on course, finish, etc).

We thank Jamie and Nadine from JaN Studios for their great photos.

We would love to hear about your Birkie weekend! Share your favourite Birkie memories with the community on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) by using the #BirkieSpirit hashtag or submit your stories for the [Birkie Blog](#) to our email: canadianbirkie@gmail.com.

Last Chance for Merchandise



The [Merchandise Store](#) will be open only until the end of February, so if you missed out at the event, get some now.

The store will take a break over the summer and re-open in October next year.

Still available:

- Shirts; current and previous years
- Scarves
- Mitts
- Tubertz
- Caps
- Selfie Sticks
- Prints
- Books
- Whistles

Birkie 2017 Print

Brian Lucas, a long-time Volunteer Board and Loppet Committee Member, has once again donated a beautiful watercolour for the Birkie.

The print, entitled 'Spruce Hollow' was painted from the trails around Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area.

Personal copies of the print (unmatted and unframed) are being sold as a fundraiser through the Birkie [store](#). Get yours today!



See you next year!

Gearing up for another great Birkie in 2018. This will be our **29th Birkie held February 9-10, 2018.**

Office Hours

The office will remain open until the end of April and then be on minimal hours over the summer. We re-open again in September.

Office hours are 10-2:30, but please be sure to call (780-430-7153) or [email](mailto:ski@canadianbirkie.com) before you come in case we are out at meetings.

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)

