



Canadian Birkie E-News:
January 2017

Canadian Birkebeiner Society
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Birkie Feb 10-11, 2017

Spirit of the Ski

Happy 2017!



Happy 2017 everyone. We wish you all a wonderful, healthy and skiing-filled 2017!

It is almost Birkie Time! **Keep track of event updates** by following us on [Twitter](#), liking our [Facebook](#) page, or checking the Twitter feed (lower right-hand corner) of the [home page](#) of our website (canadianbirkie.com). We will be posting updates the day of the event, so check here for information about your ski.

We have had some decent amounts of snow and cold weather and we know that you are looking forward to the 28th Birkie. For the latest on-trail snow conditions for Birkieland and surrounding areas, please see our [Trail Conditions](#) page.

A gentle reminder that the next **Early Bird deadline** is January 18th before fees go up. February 8th is the final day to register for all Birkie events including our [Vikings Feast Celebration](#) 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](#).

Registration details [here](#).

You can see and print our Birkie 2017 Poster and Brochures [here](#). The Program Guide will be available later in January.

Volunteers – General Call



There is still time to have the Volunteer experience of a lifetime! There are many different positions, but some areas where we need more volunteers are:

Medical: We require basic first aid certification, but beyond that all levels of experience are warmly welcomed (we will try to pair less experienced volunteers with more experienced ones)

Ski Patrol (both Long and Short Courses): people are stationed on ski along parts of the courses to marshal skiers and support anyone in need of assistance

We love our volunteers! As a volunteer, you'll receive a special Birkie gift and a Volunteer Orientation and Appreciation evening. Our volunteers have fun, meet new people and become part of our Birkie family!

If you or anyone you know would like more information on these or other volunteer positions, please click [here](#) and sign up to join in the fun!

MEC Wax Clinics



MEC is offering Birkie Wax Clinics again this year as part of their sponsorship!

All registered Birkie skiers can register free of charge for the 101 (beginner) and/or the 201 (intermediate to advanced) courses. They are being offered at both MEC locations (south common or downtown) and there are 2 dates for each level. You need only bring your registration confirmation to your clinic.

Space is limited; register online at:

<http://events.mec.ca/node/156411>

Call for Nominations

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.



Ana Lucas Osma 2016 recipient of the Ole Hovind Award

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 [here](#).

Hot Chocolate Sundays Friends of the Blackfoot



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 and start of Short Course Events)

Sundays, January 22, 29 and February 4th from 12 – 4 pm

for a post ski hot chocolate, cookies and warm fire in the shelter. Sunday, February 4th we're adding hot dogs to the menu. Show up for some great ambiance with fellow skiers.

Wax Room provided during the Nordic Fair

For our participants from out of town, a separate wax room will be provided at the [Strathcona Community Centre](#) (same building 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.

GoChip Technology

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 the skier actually crosses the start line instead of a mass start time. This means that you will have your most accurate time recorded ever in the Birkie.

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. Birkie Spirit in Action!

See our [Current Results](#) page for the link to the live results (will be active February 11, 2017).

Bergans is back!



Bergans of Norway, the Norwegian-based maker of high quality outdoor wear, is back as a sponsor of the Birkie this year. They are event sponsor for the 29 km skate event, which will be know as the Bergans of Norway Skate.

Skiers Sportshop, a well-known downhill ski store on 109th Street, is the local merchant for the Bergans brand. This year all Birkie volunteers will be wearing Bergans of Norway toques, distinctive headwear which displays the iconic warrior skiers logo that has become a trademark at all three international Birkie events.

Birkie Board Member



George Foxcroft

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 University of Alberta Professor Emeritus George Foxcroft for his good humour and perseverance. Thank you George!

George joined the Birkie Board in 2016 and has been busy organizing the Birkie Training Programs as a Director at Large. More recently he assumed the role of Chief of Course on the Loppet Committee and is rapidly expanding his knowledge of the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreational Area and all the technicalities of preparing courses for the 2017 Birkie.

George lives just south of Cooking Lake on 7 acres of aspen parkland and skis local trails with his neighbours in Hillside Park in preparation for longer trips to Waskahegan and Islet Lake in Birkieland.

**Birkie Lore;
Medallions and pins**

55 km Medallions

This fine-looking medallion is awarded to first-time finishers of a 55 km event (either with pack or lite) at the finish line - be sure to collect yours at the finish line.

55 km Pins



Second year pin

Have you ever noticed the beautiful Birkie Pins that many of our skiers proudly display? They reflect the utmost in perseverance, stamina and fortitude! They are awarded to skiers who have completed the 55 km event (either with pack or lite) more than once with a different colour for each year.

These pins can be added annually to the ribbon on your 55 km Birkie finisher medal. Begin a Birkie Tradition and start collecting now! Be sure to pick yours up in the Festival Tent after your ski. Congratulations to all pin bearers.

Merchandise



Jackets, caps, scarves, tubes, mitts, selfie sticks, books, prints and more! (Shirts will be available at the end of January 2017).

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 Stadium

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



IN HONOUR OF

