



Registration is NOW OPEN
for the Canadian Birkebeiner Society's
["Biking Like a Viking"](#)
Road Cycling Event, July 14, 2024
Ride 55, 100, or 160 kilometres through the

[Beaver Hills Biosphere](#) east of Edmonton.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Edmonton: Cyclists who enjoy long distance riding are invited to participate in the second annual [Biking Like a Viking](#) non-timed, recreational road cycling event on Sunday, July 14, 2024, organized by the [Canadian Birkebeiner Society](#). Riders can register for one of three distances - the 55 km Biosphere Half Century ride, the 100 km Biosphere Century Ride, or the 160 km Biosphere Full Century Ride. All distances start and finish at the [Strathcona Olympiette Centre](#) in [Strathcona County](#), just minutes east of Sherwood Park, Alberta.

“The Canadian Birkebeiner Society is super excited to present the second annual [Biking Like a Viking](#) event this year. We were thrilled it was such a hit last year!”, expressed event organizer Charles World. “Riders will experience a great day of supported cycling on paved roads with minimal vehicle traffic, cycling through the beautiful countryside of the [Beaver Hills Biosphere](#) microbiome in [Strathcona County](#), east of Edmonton.

Ride support for this event will include bike mechanics at the rest stops, a sweep vehicle, ride marshals, and a motorcycle support crew carrying water.

There is a rest stop at the Biodiversity Trail, just east of the Strathcona Wilderness Centre. Although the rides are supported, it is important that all riders train appropriately for their chosen event distance, and ensure that their bicycle is well-maintained on the day of the ride.

“The UNESCO-designated [Beaver Hills Biosphere](#) is a special microclimate unique to Alberta. Citizens and scientists work together to inspire awareness and preservation of this unique natural habitat area for the enjoyment of future generations. Ride participants will get to experience the visually distinct geography, and exceptional natural areas of this uniquely Alberta landscape

from their bicycles,” explained Dave Cooper, President of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society.

Modeled on the highly popular “Tour de l’Alberta” cycling event, previously organized by Allen Jacobsen and the Edmonton Bicycle and Touring Club, the “[Biking Like a Viking](#)” event is open to recreational and elite endurance cyclists alike.

Departing from the Strathcona Olympiette Centre in Strathcona County, cyclists will ride on paved roads close to Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, home of the Canadian Birkie Ski Festival every winter for the past 40 years. The circular road cycling routes will take riders over moderately hilly terrain, interspersed with flat sections, along the paved range roads of Strathcona County. All three route maps are available for preview on the Canadian Birkie website at Canadianbirkie.com.

[Registration](#) for Biking Like a Viking is now open and closes on July 7th. An early bird discount in effect until June 7.

What is the UNESCO Beaver Hills Biosphere?

The Beaver Hills Biosphere is comprised primarily of Elk Island National Park, Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, and Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Elk Island National Park and Cooking Lake Blackfoot are at the core of its unique glacial moraine landscape. To learn more about the Beaver Hills Biosphere and the work of the society that encourages local municipalities and citizens to protect this amazing area, go to: [Beaver Hills Biosphere: Home](#)

The Canadian Birkie Ski Festival

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2025, the Canadian Birkie is Western Canada’s premier classic-style cross country ski festival. It takes place in February in the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area cross-

country ski trail system, located east of Edmonton in Strathcona County.

Founded in 1985, it is one of three Birkebeiner or “citizen races” for elite and recreational skiers held world-wide, with the other two held in Norway and Wisconsin, USA. There were over 1800 participants in the 2023 [Canadian Birkie Ski Festival](#).

Visit canadianbirkie.com/bike.

Media Contacts:

Charles World: 780-660-9780, loppet@canadianbirkie.com

Dave Cooper: 780-298-2856, president@canadianbirkie.com

Canadian Birkebeiner Society, Alberta Gold Business Centre, 7240 – 82 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6B 0G1



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7240 82 Avenue
Edmonton
Alberta
T6B 0G1
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