June 13, 2024

The second annual "Biking Like a Viking" invites all road cyclists to experience the beauty of the Beaver Hills Biosphere this July

Registration closes July 7, 2024 at Midnight.
Pdf version available here

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Over 150 cyclists have already signed up for the Canadian Birkie's second annual Biking Like a Viking long-distance recreational road cycling event, taking place on Sunday, July 14th, 2024 in the Beaver Hills Biosphere, just east of Edmonton. Participants can choose from three event distances - 55 kms, 100 kms, or 160 kms. Spots are limited, and registration closes July 7 at midnight. The Beaver Hills Biosphere is a UNESCO-designated natural area unique to Alberta, located in Strathcona County near Sherwood Park.

Charles World, President of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society says, "*We are excited to see many of our long-time Birkie skiers, as well as members of local road cycling groups signing up for this non-timed recreational cycling event. Final preparations are in full swing to offer road riders a fun, well-supported cycling experience on event day. No one will go hungry during or after their ride, with nutrition stations on course, and a catered meal at the post-ride social".*

In its second year, the "Biking Like a Viking" Biosphere cycling event is an initiative of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society, in cooperation with the UNESCO-designated Beaver Hills Biosphere natural areas. Participants can expect a full, active day on their bikes, riding paved roads through the peaceful countryside and lush forested areas of Strathcona County. Nutrition will be offered on all three courses for riders, as well as a hearty catered post-event meal, with indoor shower facilities available at the Olympiette Centre at the finish line. All three routes are supported by course marshals, bike maintenance vehicles and sag wagons. Participants are encouraged to sign up for the distance most appropriate for their fitness level, and must ensure their bicycle is well-maintained.

Starting and finishing from the Strathcona Olympiette Centre in Sherwood Park, all three circular routes include gentle to moderate hills, interspersed with flat sections on paved range roads. Route maps for all three distances are posted at https://canadianbirkie.com/bike/biking-like-a-viking/

Event Manager and long-time cycling enthusiast Allen Jacobson commented, "*The Birkie is excited to bring Edmonton cyclists this fun, non-competitive recreational long-distance road cycling event in its second year. Similar in community spirit to the long-running and very popular Tour de l'Alberta cycling event, "Biking Like a Viking" is open to every level of rider, and is not a timed event,...kind of like a cross country ski loppet, but on bikes!"*

Registration for **Biking Like a Viking in the Biosphere**.
Go to: Register

The UNESCO Beaver Hills Biosphere
The Beaver Hills Biosphere includes Elk Island National Park, Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and bordering natural areas. The Elk Island National Park and Cooking Lake Blackfoot lands form the core of this unique glacial moraine landscape. Learn more about the Beaver Hills Biosphere society, which fosters the work of municipalities and regular citizens to protect this special natural area at Beaver Hills Biosphere: Home

The Canadian Birkie Ski Festival
Taking place on the second weekend in February on the woodland trails of Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area in central Alberta, the Canadian Birkie is Western Canada's premier classic-style cross-country ski festival. Founded in 1985, it is one of three Birkebeiners or "citizen races" held world-wide, with the other two held in Norway and Wisconsin, USA. Over 1800 participants skied in the 2023 Canadian Birkie Ski Festival. In 2023 the Canadian Birkebeiner Society added Biking Like a Viking as an additional successful summer event. https://canadianbirkie.com/bike/

Visit canadianbirkie.com/bike for more information or contact our **Media Contacts:**

Canadian Birkebeiner Society

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If you like to attend "Biking Like a Viking", please contact Delia Meenhorst, marketing@canadianbirkie.com for a press pass or photo material.

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