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Canadian Birkie News



Important Message about Birkie Saturday Ski Events

Author: Dave Cooper, President

The Board of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society called off the Birkie Saturday ski events for the 2024 Canadian Birkie Ski Festival. There is not enough snow on the ground and insufficient amounts are forecasted to allow this part of the festival to go-ahead. The board waited until the last possible moment to make this decision using the best available weather forecasts.

Volunteer Orientations and Nordic Fair Called Off. As these activities are tied to Birkie Saturday, these events will not take place. Volunteers are encouraged to attend the February 3 Birkie TV episode (see below) for a special thank you. Alternative arrangements are being made with Sponsors to take part in a Virtual Nordic Fair as part of the Virtual Birkie activities.

Secure Your Spot Insurance. For Skiers who purchased Secure Your Spot Insurance or the Birkie Festival Pass, you can register in the same event for the 2025 Birkie, at no cost. We will contact you via the email in October 2024. Please be patient as we work through these details.

Birkie Festival Still Goes On

The sound of cow bells, cheers, friends, and the smell of Birkie-Sausages defines Birkie Saturday. This year, the finish line will be silent, but the rest of the Canadian Birkie Ski Festival goes on.

Birkie TV. Please join us at 10.00-10.30 am on Saturday, February 3 for Birkie-TV - Episode 3. Learn more about the other Birkie Ski Festival events and the Virtual-Birkie. This is an interactive session so bring your questions noting that space is limited to the first 100 attendees:

<https://meet.google.com/azm-fshb-gyt>.

Barnebirkie. For families with children, this event is a go. Most likely in Victoria Golf Course but Gold Bar Park is on standby. Bib and package pick up will take place on site starting at 11.00 am. Please check our newsletter, Birkie social media channels, and your email for any last-minute changes due to changing snow conditions. For more information and to register, see canadianbirkie.com/birkie-sunday.

Virtual Birkie. Every registered skier and volunteer will receive a free Virtual Birkie pass. This allows you to pick any Birkie Ski distance and ski, walk, run, bike, snowshoe – almost any self-propelled activity instead. In addition to some great prizes, some of sponsors Virtual Birkie may include some surprises. Most will be virtual allowing Birkie'ites from around the world to participate. Others are best enjoyed from metro-Edmonton. For more information and to register see canadianbirkie.com/virtual-birkie. The Virtual Birkie takes place from February 10 to 24. Participants have until February 26th to upload their results

Full Moon Birkie has been re-scheduled to February 24 due to snow conditions. Registrants received an email last week discussing the options including exchanging your January registration for a Virtual Birkie pass. Please contact our coordinator, Jess, at coordinator@canadianbirkie.com if you have any questions. For more information and to register see canadianbirkie.com/full-moon-birkie.

Vikings' Feast. Great food, fun activities, and a chance to recount past and future Birkies defines the Vikings' Feast. As a reminder, for Festival Pass holders, the Feast is part of the package. For others who have yet to buy their ticket, space is limited in our new venue Broadmoor Public Golf Course. More more information and to purchase your tickets see canadianbirkie.com/vikings-feast.

Merchandise. For those attending the Vikings' Feast, please pick up your merchandise. For others, the office will have designated hours for you to drop by and get your cool 'Birkie-threads'. As required, alternative arrangements will be made for those unable to attend these pick up moments, including shipping options. Please stay tuned for details.

2025 – 40th Canadian Birkebeiner Society. While the organization was ready to hold the 2024 Canadian Birkie Ski Festival, for reasons of safety, practical, and enjoyment reasons, Mother nature had other plans. People on the Canadian Prairies are used to adversity, being flexible, and accepting of what they can and cannot control. We are looking forward to February 8, 2025 – the 40th Anniversary of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society Skiers, Volunteers, and Supporters – mark it on your calendar. In the meantime, our motto for this year is '**Birkie 2024: We've Got You!**'.

Biking Like a Viking, July 14, 2024. Looking ahead to summer, Biking Like a Viking is back! Registration will open soon so keep your eye on the newsletter, Birkie social media or at canadianbirkie.com/bike.



Canadian Birkie Ski Festival

February 9-24, 2024

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