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Canadian Birkie News

We Got Snow!

A message from Dave Cooper, President

If you live on the Prairies or are watching the weather, you know that metro-Edmonton received snow this week. Farmers, drought watchers and the like are breathing a small sigh of relief. While we are thankful for the precipitation, the question is still, do we have enough?

How Much Snow is Enough? 20 cm on the trails is about the minimum. This amount is compacted down to 5-7 cm of tracked trails. Not all snowflakes are the same. Cold and dry snow (such as what we have recently received) compacts more than the wet heavy stuff. Even if tracked, wind erosion, warm days, and sublimation depletes the base. A

late snowfall does not help as it takes a full week to prepare the start and finish areas as well as the trails.

Safely Snowing. In addition to there being enough snow to track set, there must also be enough snow so that the course can be safely managed. This is a surprising complex consideration; is there enough snow for our emergency snowmobiles – to GET TO the trail. To help with this assessment, we are using the services of a retired meteorologist (more on this in the coming weeks) and Alberta Parks.

Snow and Snowless Plans. The Canadian Birkebeiner has a two-part strategy. The first part is to assume that there will be sufficient snow on February 10, 2024. Organizationally, the Birkie is in very good shape! Every station is reporting ready to go, nearly all volunteer positions are filled, and we are about a month ahead of schedule in our preparations.

Just in Case.... Remember the two warriors in 1206 who rescued the Crown Prince. They skied because it was the best mode of transportation available to them. Had it been summer, they might have paddled, run or walked. Had they had modern technology, they may have snowshoed, or fat biked. These activities (and more) are all allowed in the Virtual Birkie and are part of the contingency 'Snowless Birkie'.

Ready to Virtual Birkie? If the in-person event does not happen, all registered skiers and volunteers will receive a free entry to the Virtual Birkie. Entirely online, most self-propelled activities are allowed when and where you want. For skiers who bought Secure Your Spot Insurance, we will honour your registration for the 2025 Birkie.

Moons, Feasts, and Kids. The Birkebeiner is more than a one-day event. January 27 is the Full Moon Birkie; alternative locations are being considered. The Viking Feast, February 10, is still on and there are spots

available. If you have a little skier, the Barnebirkie is a go.

Keep on Training! For those in the Birkie Training, the techniques and conditioning will prepare you for the ‘24 Birkie... or for other activities throughout the year!

Getting Ready to Birkie! Snow is falling in Birkieland. If it is insufficient, we are ready with the ‘Snowless-Birkie’. As things change, the Canadian Birkebeiner will keep our athletes, dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors and members of the public informed!

Win a Free 2025 Birkie Registration Now!

Congratulations to Andy from Red Deer, and Sarah from Calgary, for winning our first and second Ski with a Friend contest draws!

There is one more opportunity to win two free Canadian Birkie 2025 registrations, a value of up to $220 for each monthly prize. Register before January 31, 2024 and you will be added to the final draw taking place February 1.

For more information, see our Ski with a Friend page.

Birkie TV January 16

This year, we introduced Birkie TV. Although it was envisioned as a forum for volunteers, the January 16 'show' will be repurposed to 'Facts and Questions about Birkie '24'. Pre-registration is not required but there is a limit of 100 participants so be sure to join early to get your virtual 'seat'. Watch the website and our social media feeds for updates and special guests.

Birkie-TV - Episode 2; Tuesday, January 16 · 7:00 – 8:00pm; Time zone: America/Edmonton
Limit 100 participants, ***late joiners will have to wait until an intermission to be admitted***.
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/azm-fshb-gyt

A Family that Skis Together, Stays Together – Join the Barnebirkie Fun!

Attention Bunnies, Jackrabbits, parents, grandparents and all other Barnebirkie enthusiasts!

The registration for the Barnebirkie Family Ski is open. The Canadian Birkebeiner Society is excited to once again partner with the Silver Skate Festival, where we will be hosting the Barnebirkie Family Ski at the Victoria Golf Course on Sunday February 11.

There will be family friendly classic-style cross-country ski events, games, prizes, refreshments and Viking fun! Don’t forget your Viking horns for our costume contest. Come and celebrate winter with us – it is guaranteed to be a party!

For more information see our Barnebirkie Family Ski page.

Birkie Baby Announcement

Fenna, our 2024 Birkie Baby, was born on the first day of snow in 2022, into a family who loves winter activities. Her parents met on a cross-country ski trip and have done the Birkebeiner many times together. Fenna's grandfather and great-grandfather completed the Elfstedentocht, a 220 km ice skating tour in the Netherlands, and she has relatives in Norway who are avid Birkebeiners. Fenna loves the outdoors and is already joining her parents in cross-country skiing and skating. Her family is excited for the winter activities to come, and Fenna will be present at various Birkie events!

Want to learn more about the Birkie Baby? See our Birkie Baby page.

Win a New Bike from Mud Sweat and Gears

Are you ready for the 2024 cycling season? Gear up and elevate your cycling experience with a top-of-the-line Cervelo Caledonia 105. Our generous sponsor Mud Sweat and Gears, is offering Canadian Birkie participants a chance to win this amazing bike.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to take your cycling to the next level. Enter now for your chance to win and be prepared to conquer the roads ahead.

Enter the contest here.

20% Discount with 7 Summits Snacks

Are you a chocolate lover looking to fuel your next adventure? Look no further than Prince Haakon Sponsor, 7 Summits Snacks! With a variety of flavors to choose from, 7 Summits Snacks offers the perfect on-the-go snack to keep you energized during your next outdoor adventure. They are currently offering an exclusive deal of 20% off all original variety explorer boxes to the Birkie community.

Don't miss out on this delicious deal! Visit the 7 Summits Snacks website and use the code BIRKIE20 at checkout to redeem your discount. Offer runs through April 30, 2024.