



Canadian Birkie pivots to a Virtual Birkie due to low snowfall this season. The Barnebirkie Family Ski event will go ahead February 11 at Victoria Golf Course.

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The Canadian Birkebeiner Society Board of Directors was forced to make the difficult decision to call off the [in-person Birkie ski events on Saturday, February 10](#) due to lack of snow. Instead, all 2024 Birkie registrants and volunteers are receiving a complimentary registration by email for the [Virtual Canadian Birkie](#). The Virtual Birkie began in 2020 and has remained popular due to its remote accessibility and great photo contest prizes. Participants can complete the distance of their choice in the Virtual Birkie anywhere, anytime between February 10 to 24 by doing any



outdoor activity, including classic or skate skiing, skating, snowshoeing, cycling or fat biking, hiking or running.

Birkie President Dave Cooper explained ***“We were really hoping and we waited until the last possible minute to cancel - but snow is not in the forecast. Our Alberta Parks partner cannot assure us that even with a late dump, they could build a trail system that meets our safety standards.”*** He added, ***“We are disappointed to say the least, but we are forging ahead with the virtual event in true Birkebeiner spirit. Everyone will receive a free entry for the Canadian Birkie virtual event. For skiers who purchased the [Secure Your Spot](#) insurance, their 2024 Birkie registration will roll over to the 2025 event. We encourage everyone to visit our [Birkie sponsors](#) in-person, their websites, social media pages, or send them an email to express thanks for their ongoing support during this challenging year.”***

The Birkie forges ahead with the Virtual Canadian Birkie

All skiers registered for an in-person Birkie Saturday event, and all Birkie volunteers, will receive a complimentary entry by email to complete their chosen distance in the Virtual Canadian Birkie. Participants can enter the [Virtual Birkie online social media photo contests](#) to win ski-related prizes and be entered to win the grand prize of a two night stay at [Castle Mountain Chalets](#) in Banff National Park. The [Virtual Canadian Birkie](#) allows anyone to participate in the Canadian Birkie remotely from virtually anywhere in the world. Choose from the 2 km, 4 km, 7 km, 13 km, 31 km, 55 km, or 55 km distance with a 12 lbs (5.5 kg) pack. Finishing times can be submitted online for a bit of friendly competition. Friends, families, clubs and organizations are encouraged to register as teams and [enter the virtual Birkie social media photo contests to win great prizes.](#)

Birkie Marketing Director Delia Meenhorst commented ***“...the Virtual Canadian Birkie is very inclusive and allows everyone to complete their chosen distance doing whatever outdoor activity they prefer. You can classic ski, skate ski, skijor with their dog, run, hike, fat bike, skate, snowshoe, ... even wheelchair! Any form of movement outdoors goes. In the past few years, there were participants from as far away as Italy and Norway in the Virtual Birkie who shared their photos to the Birkie’s [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages. It's a lot of fun to see videos and***

photos of people locally, and from all over the world.”

Viking Feast, Saturday, February 10, Sherwood Park

Tickets are still available online for the annual Birkie [Viking Feast](#) the evening of Saturday, February 10th at Broadmoor Public Golf Course clubhouse in Sherwood Park. The Viking Feast is the perfect place for Birkie ski friends to meet up, socialize, enjoy a beverage and hearty buffet meal, and win great ski-related door prizes.

Barnebirkie Family Ski, Sunday, February 11, Victoria Golf Course

The Canadian Birkie is proud to host the annual [Barnebirkie classic-style cross country family ski](#) again, in partnership with the [Silver Skate Festival](#). Kids and parents can ski 500 meters, 2 km or 4 km. Register in advance on-line. Enjoy snacks, games and the attend the Festival after. The Barnebirkie may move to Gold Bar Park if snow conditions are unsuitable in Victoria Golf Course.

Full Moon Birkie, February 24 at Cooking Lake-Blackfoot

The [Full Moon Birkie](#) is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, February 24 at [Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area in Strathcona County](#). [Registration is online](#) in advance or in person at 6 pm. This event is self-paced with participants departing from the Waskahegan Shelter at 6:30 pm to ski as far as they wish. Enjoy post-ski snacks and hot chocolate around a fire with the other participants. Kids ski free.

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Digital video footage and photos provided upon request.



Canadian Birkie Ski Festival

Feb 09-24, 2024

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