



Canadian Birkebeiner ramps up preparations for 30th Birkie Ski Festival

2020 Canadian Birkie takes place February 7th - 9th

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The Canadian Birkebeiner Society is working hard to ensure everything is perfect for the 30th Birkie Ski Festival, which will be held from February 7th - 9th. The Society is working with approximately 500 volunteers to run the three-day event.

The volunteers contribute to all aspects of the Festival, including registration, course preparation and maintenance, ski patrol and in the kitchen preparing the delicious food. The Society is also working closely with the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village for Birkie Saturday and with the Silver Skate Festival for Birkie Sunday.

"It is wonderful to see three weeks before the event everything coming together," said Jim Black, President of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society. "The snow is good; the trails are right and even more importantly our teams of volunteers are in full preparation to welcome racers and families to our Birkie Ski Festival February 7th – 9th."

As a result of preparations with the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village and Alberta Parks, the start of the 31 and 55 kilometre races on Birkie Saturday have changed from Goose Lake to the land behind the red barn of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. Meanwhile, in cooperation with the Silver Skate Festival and the City of Edmonton, grooming of the course at William Hawrelak Park has begun so all families will be able to enjoy Birkie Sunday.

The Canadian Birkie Ski Festival aims to promote cross-country skiing for all ages and abilities. Until January 31st, participants can take advantage of special registration pricing and kids can even participate for free. For more information about the event, please visit <https://canadianbirkie.com/>, or follow us on social media ([@canadianbirkie](#) on Twitter and [Instagram](#), and on [Facebook](#)).

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Pictures are available on request via: coordinator@canadianbirkie.com. If you would like to attend and experience the event yourself, please contact our Coordinator, Marion Hinteregger, for further information.

About the Canadian Birkebeiner Society:

Since 1985, the Canadian Birkebeiner Society organises Canada's largest classic cross-country ski festival held on the second weekend of February each year: The Canadian Birkie. Along with organising the Canadian Birkie, the non-profit aims to involve participants of all ages in cross-country skiing, promoting an active and healthy winter lifestyle. Birkie Saturday offers race events with short and long distances, starting with the two or four kilometre Birkie Ole's Tour for younger skiers to the 55 kilometre Torskeklubben Birkebeiner for the more advanced skier. Birkie Sunday aims to promote cross-country skiing for families and offers mini-races and opportunities to get familiar with the sport.

Along with the main event Birkie Festival, Full Moon Birkies are organised to allow people to enjoy cross-country skiing in a friendly and fun atmosphere.

The Canadian Birkie allows participants to relive the Birkebeiner legend of how two Birkebeiner warriors rescued the future Norwegian Crown Prince by skiing him to safety in the middle of winter. In the longest race of the Canadian Birkie, skiers still carry a 5.5 kilogram weight that symbolises the Crown Prince Haakon Haakonsson.

Canadian Birkebeiner Society

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