



## **Canadian Birkebeiner Society celebrates successful 30th Canadian Birkie Ski Festival** *2021 early bird registration open until midnight on Tuesday, February 11th*

Over 1,350 skiers enjoyed the 30th Canadian Birkie Ski Festival that ran February 7-9, 2020 in the Edmonton area.

The Canadian Birkie Ski Festival ended with Birkie Sunday on February 9th. Parents and children signed up in advance and on site at Silver Skate Festival in Hawrelak Park. As a result, a total of 198 cross country skiers enjoyed outdoor fun and games. All families participated in the skiing and took part in the activities offered.

Birkie Saturday, February 8th, was a hit for all those that attended. Overall and age group medals were awarded to skiers with the best times. For many, simply finishing the race was a personal accomplishment. No incidents were reported, while one skier broke his binding and decided to finish the 31 km Birkie Tour running on foot.

Those wishing to register for next year's event, the 31st Canadian Birkie Ski Festival, can do so for 2020 prices until midnight on Tuesday, February 11th. Registration will open again in the fall. The 2021 event will be held from February 12 – 14.

"I am very pleased to look back at such a successful weekend for the Canadian Birkie Ski Festival 2020," said Jim Black, President of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society. "We are extremely grateful to all 1,355 skiers who celebrated the Birkie spirit. We received so many compliments for our society, the volunteers and the sponsors. Those people made the event the success it was, and we simply could not have held the festival without them."

### Canadian Birkie Ski Festival 2020 Statistics

In total, 1355 skiers attended the 30th Canadian Birkie Ski Festival

- 55 km with pack Torskeklubben Birkebeiner - 131 participants
- 55 km Birkie Lite - 193 participants
- 31 km Birkie Tour - 421 participants
- 13 km Global Edmonton Mini Birkie - 280 participants
- 4 and 8 km Imperial Oil Birkie Fun Ski - 59 participants
- 2 and 4 km Birkie Ole's Tour - 73 participants
- 500 m, 1.5 km & 3 km Barnebirkie (Birkie Sunday) - 198 participants

The Canadian Birkie Ski Festival aims to promote cross-country skiing for all ages and abilities. For more information, please visit <https://canadianbirkie.com/> and 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](mailto: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 with pack Torskeklubben Birkebeiner for the more advanced skier. Birkie Sunday aims to promote cross-country skiing for families and offers Barnebirkie ski events to get children familiar with the sport and show the benefits of cross-country skiing for families.

In addition to the Canadian Birkie Ski Festival, the Canadian Birkebeiner Society organizes ski training and Full Moon Birkies to allow people to enjoy cross-country skiing in a friendly and fun atmosphere.

The Canadian Birkie Ski Festival 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.

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**Canadian Birkebeiner Society**

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