

# Canadian Birkie News

Feb, 10, 2020 [View this email online](#)



## Register for 2021 now!

**Register** for next year's event, the 31st Canadian Birkie Ski Festival on February 12 - 14, 2021 now! Until midnight on Tuesday, February 11th you can register with 2020 Early Bird pricing and Secure Your Spot Insurance. If you miss this opportunity, registration will be up and running again in the fall.



## Results are in; 2020 Birkie was a hit!

The 30th Canadian Birkie Ski Festival welcomed 1,355 skiers to the Edmonton area from February 7-9, 2020. Registrants arrived from 10 Canadian provinces and territories, eight U.S. states and six other countries.

**Birkie Friday** saw about a thousand people visit the Nordic Fair at the Woodvale Facility. Skiers picked up their bibs, visited with our sponsors and asked about waxing.

**Birkie Saturday**, February 8th, provided wonderful weather and excellent tracks. Skiers got a sense of personal accomplishment by receiving a medal, achieving a personal best, or simply finishing the race. No incidents were reported, while one skier broke his binding and finished the 31 km Birkie Tour running on foot. This is Birkie perseverance, fortitude and courage at it's best!

The Canadian Birkie Ski Festival ended with **Birkie Sunday** on February 9th at Silver Skate Festival in Hawrelak Park. A total of 198 cross country skiers enjoyed outdoor family fun and games.



## Smiles on the Birkie Trails

Our professional Birkie photographers, Jamie and Nadine from JaN Studios, were along the course capturing your smiles on film. You can purchase a copy of your photo at JaN Studios within the week. Keep checking back on our [Media Gallery](#) page.



## 2020 Birkie Swag still available

If you missed getting your Birkie memorabilia in the Festival Tent near the Finish Line, it is still available. Check out Birkie t-shirts, mittens and mugs [online](#).



## Thanks to Volunteers and Sponsors

"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." *Jim Black, President of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society*

Please support the following community-minded [sponsors](#).

### King Haakon Circle:

- Alberta Government
- City of Edmonton
- Global Edmonton
- Imperial Oil
- Special Event Rentals
- Strathcona County
- Torskeklubben Edmonton
- Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village

### Prince Haakon Circle:

- BOXX Modular
- Melcor
- Wingspan Studios



## Inga Fra Varteig Circle:

- Alley Kat Brewing Company
- Elk Island National Park
- Fast Trax
- Lambert Intellectual Property Law
- Ostrem Chemical
- Salomon
- SWIX
- Totem
- Track 'N Trail



## Congratulations 2020 award winners

The **Haakon Haakonsson** award recognizes dedication to the Birkebeiner tradition. The following 2020 winners won this prestigious award for skiing in the Norwegian, American and Canadian Birkie events.

1. Hilary Garrett from Bend, Oregon
2. Jeffrey Greenwood from Minneapolis, Minnesota
3. Douglas Holtan from Mercer Island, Washington
4. Mary Beth Kalmeyer from Leadville, Colorado
5. Mike Miller from Philippi, West Virginia
6. Fiona Ortiz from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
7. Douglas Schumacher from Roseville, Minnesota
8. Sara Wells from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
9. Bradley Wells from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
10. John Wilkie from Penticton, British Columbia

**John Toonen Memorial Award** is presented to the oldest skier in a 55 km lite or with pack event, alternating each year between male and female. This year the award goes to Gail Andrew at age 73.

**The Kankkunen Cup** celebrates life-long participation in skiing and competition by recognizing the oldest skier to complete a non-55 km event. The trophy honours the dedication of the entire Kankkunen family to skiing and the Birkie. This year's award went to Frank Haley who skied the 4 or 8 km Imperial Oil Birkie Fun Ski at age 95. Read Frank's [story](#) about skiing the first Canadian Birkebeiner 1985.

The **Most Kilometres Skied Group Award** offers businesses and non-profits a team building Birkie experience. The organization whose members ski the furthest distance in total during Birkie Saturday win the honour. The 2020 award recipient was the enthusiastic team at AIMCo.



## Medals and Lost & Found

If you are looking for your medal, year pin, or a lost and found item, please contact our [Birkie office](#).

Please do not reply to this newsletter, office [contact](#) information below.  
Photo credit: JaN Studios

Canadian Birkie Ski Festival  
Feb 12-14, 2021

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