



## **In-person Canadian Birkie 2022 and Barnebirkie family ski more than a success.**

**Canadian Birkie saw over 1300 skiers participate this weekend**

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**Edmonton, February 14th, 2022** – The Canadian Birkebeiner Society successfully closed off the in-person Canadian Birkie cross country ski loppet 2022, Viking Feast and their Barnebirkie family ski this weekend. Over 1,300 skiers participated in the events that saw beautiful sunny conditions and speedy tracks.

“The participants, the volunteers, the conditions were amazing. Everything was right for our cross country ski events this weekend. The warmer temperatures made our tracks fast, so that many skiers enjoyed excellent ski times. The enthusiasm of our volunteers and participants really was a big thank you to all of us that worked so hard to make it happen.” says Birkie president Dave Cooper.

Birkie Saturday saw 1,040 skiers signed up with 94% from Alberta with the rest from other provinces and the U.S. The fastest skier in the 55km with pack Torskeklubben Birkie did it in just 3 hours and 58 seconds. Although the course was rerouted and shortened by 1km due to the trail conditions, the winner was 28 minutes quicker than the fastest time in 2020. The 31km and 13km events also saw people coming in with faster times than 2020. Four “red bibbers” competed, as they have in every 55km with pack Torskeklubben Birke since 1985. Full results of the event can be viewed here: <https://zone4.ca/race/2022-02-12/37688ab0/results/>

After the event, skiers and volunteers met at the Viking Feast held at the Woodvale facility of Millwoods golf course.

## **Family Ski Event for a New Generation of Birkebeiner Skiers**

More than 170 family members visited the Barnebirkie family ski at Silver Skate Fest at Hawrelak Park. Children and their families were the full focus Sunday, February 13. The Edmonton Mayor Sohi welcomed the attendees and officially opened the race. The Barnebirkie classic-style cross country ski event saw beautiful tracks and blue skies. The families enjoyed their skies, the Vikings and mascots. Every little attendee was gifted a small goodie bag when finishing their ski.

“It is lovely to see all those small skiers enjoy a ski and the outdoors with their families. To have so many little participants on the skis and see those smiles in the middle of winter really makes it worthwhile to organize the Barnebirkie family ski annually. “ says Roberta Hyland.

The Canadian Birkebeiner has two more events this month: The Virtual Canadian Birkie and Full Moon Birkie.

### **Let’s Birkie – Virtually, Baby!**

Those desiring a more distanced setting can join people from North America in the second Virtual Birkie from February 14 to 28, 2022. Participants can ski classic, skate ski, snowshoe, skate or skijor. Depending on where they live, some may choose to roller-ski, cycle, run or walk. Participants choose their day and Birkie distance of 2, 4, 8, 13, 31 or 55 kilometres; at your own place, at your own pace.

Participants have an opportunity to win \$3100 in prizes in the Virtual Birkie Photo Contest, including a two-night Canadian Rockies ski getaway grand prize. Groups and organizations are encouraged to enlist their family, friends and organizations for the Most KM Group Award. For details, go to: <https://canadianbirkie.com/virtual-birkie/>

Participants can post their photos and tag them on Facebook @CdnBirkie, on Twitter @canadianbirkie and/or on Instagram @canadianbirkie. They can also join our Virtual Canadian Birkie Facebook Group We would love to hear specific information about the location, day, distance and any other details.

### **Full Moon Ski**

Skiers looking for a scenic evening ski can participate in the Full Moon Birkie on Saturday, February 19 from 6:00 -10:00 pm at the Waskahegan Staging Area, Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area. The ski course extends from Waskahegan Staging Area to Meadow Shelter, a round trip of 12 km. Skiers can choose a shorter trip but must ski with a buddy. For details, go to <https://canadianbirkie.com/full-moon-birkie/>

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### **About the Canadian Birkebeiner Society:**

Since 1985, the Canadian Birkebeiner Society has organized Canada's largest classic, cross-country ski festival held on the second weekend of February. As well, the non-profit society aims to involve participants of all ages in cross-country skiing, promoting an active and healthy winter lifestyle. In addition, the Canadian Birkebeiner Society organizes the Virtual Canadian Birkie, ski training and other ski events 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 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 symbolizes the Crown Prince Haakon Haakonsson. In 2022 the Canadian Birkie will live stream the finish line.

The Virtual Canadian Birkie invites participants to take part in the Birkie at their chosen location between February 14<sup>th</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup>. Registrants upload their distance and a photo of their event. The participants get a chance to then compare themselves with other Virtual Birkie skiers. Groups can take part in the "Most KM Skied" Award allowing people to set a group goal.



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**Canadian Birkie Ski Festival**

Feb 11-28, 2022

**Canadian Birkebeiner Society**

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