

# Canadian Birkie E-News

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year!

We have been busy working the Birkie-land Trails and therefore are somewhat tardy in our New Years' salutations. Our volunteers have put in well over 300 hours of effort in trail clearing, upgrades and snow moving/harvesting and we are pleased with the results so far!

The extremely dedicated Parks Crew anticipate having Waskahegan loops groomed today, in spite of the slow going because of the extreme cold. Over the weekend they hope to have it tracked in the Wanisan/Siksika area over to Elk Push Lake, and if all goes well, over to the Islet Staging Area. Check out our [Trail Conditions](#) page.

The tracks should be fine and with warmer conditions predicted for Saturday and Sunday, it should be a great weekend for skiing!

Don't delay...ski today, and see you at Birkie 2018.

**Register** before **January 17, 2018** to take advantage of the next **Early Bird** deadline. **Final registration date is February 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.**

## BIRKIE SUNDAY

The Vikings are on their way!

Don't miss out on this exciting new event **February 11, 2018** at Gold Bar Park in Edmonton, 10955 50 Street.

The Birkie is teaming up with Edmonton Nordic Ski Club to present a family-fun day of skiing including:

- The Inner-City Sprints & Relays
- 750 m, 2 km and 4 km Global Mini-Birkie Classic Ski Loppets



- “Double Pole” sprint challenge
- A Fancy Dress competition – with prizes
- Other fun events for kids
- Hot drinks and snacks

Visit our [website](#), see our [Birkie Sunday Flyer](#) for details and [Register](#) now!

## FULL MOON BIRKIE

Join us for our inaugural FULL MOON BIRKIE January 31, 2018. This is your chance to enjoy a pre-Birkie ski in the heart of Birkie-land!

We will start at the Waskahegan Staging area in Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area and ski up to 12 km (Meadow Shelter) under the light of the FULL MOON. Other distances available. See our [webpage](#) for details and to register.



## 10 FOR 10 CLUB CHALLENGE

Be a part of the new Birkie Club Challenge!

Register 10 members on your team, get 10% off each registration fee AND compete against other ski clubs for cash prizes! More information [here](#).

# SPIRIT NORTH

The Canadian Birkebeiner Society has chosen to partner with Spirit North this year to enhance the opportunities for Indigenous children and youth in the celebration of cross-country skiing.

Support Spirit North by making a [donation](#) or taking part in the Spirit North's Birkebeiner pledge event. For more information on the pledge event, please contact [info@spiritnorthxc.ca](mailto:info@spiritnorthxc.ca) or call 587-879-8933.

Want more information on Spirit North? Click [here](#) to get more details on this wonderful program.

# MEC WAX CLINICS

MEC is offering Birkie Wax Clinics at both locations (South Common or Downtown) free of charge for Birkie Participants. Just bring your registration confirmation to the clinic.

Choose the one that is best for you. Space is limited; register [online](#).



## VIKINGS' FEAST

Join us for the Vikings' Feast Celebration Saturday, February 10 for dinner, awards, entertainment and prizes. Click [here](#) for details.

Our friends at **Totem** have made a beautiful chair out of cross country skis to be auctioned off, so don't miss it!



## HOT CHOCOLATE SUNDAYS

Once again, the wonderful volunteers from the Friends of Blackfoot Society are providing hot chocolate at the Waskahegan Staging Area of Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area on the three Sundays prior to the Birkie. This is an annual pre-Birkie celebration and we hope you can join us.

BBQ hot dogs are on the menu on February 4 and a Parks Visitor Services member will be on hand with a display on winter animals / animal tracking.

Jan 21 & 28, Feb. 4, 11 am – 4 pm



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please join us Birkie week for a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Visit the [Volunteer page](#) on our website to learn more.

# VOLUNTEER FEATURE

The large stadium tent is a major undertaking ....it must be ordered and erected, heated, the floor sanded for traction, tables and chairs installed and kitchen facilities set up. All of this takes a lot of organization and volunteers.

Our Chief of Equipment and Logistics – Randy Stebner – orders the tents and other physical infrastructure. The Chief of Stadium – Dave Johnston – and team sets everything up (sometimes in brutally cold weather) and then tears everything down the day after the Birkie.

Those wonderful Birkebeiner Smokies (the technical description is `locally sourced gluten free smokies’) only appear because of our Festival Tent Chief – Mike Berezan – and his merry band of 6 cooks and 30 operating volunteers. Mike has been heading up the food and drink offerings for quite a few years and has it down to a science .... ordering 300 more smokies than the number of skiers registered and so forth.

It’s quite an undertaking way out there in a parking lot .... we’re quite proud of it!

## ALUMNI

We have established a Birkie Alumni Group for former Chiefs from the Loppet Committee and former Board members. The intention is to record our history and acknowledge past contributions to the Birkie.



Chef Mike

If you were a Loppet Chief or Board member, or know someone who was, we would like to hear from you. Contact the **office** to add your name to the list or for additional information.

## **BIKE 'N SKI AWARD**

The Birkie and MS Society continue to team up for the Bike 'n Ski Award, encouraging and supporting skiers and cyclist to stay fit year round with cross training and recognizing individuals for participating in both of these extraordinary events.

If you've cycled either the Road Bike Tour (Leduc to Camrose) or the Hinton Mountain Bike and are registering in a long course (55 or 31 km) ski event, **contact** the Birkie office to receive \$10 off your registration.

Participants will receive a special Bike n' Ski ceramic mug following the completion of both events.

The Johnson MS Bike – Leduc to Camrose is the largest and longest standing MS Bike event in Canada. All you need is a bike and the passion to end MS. Contact the **MS office** to receive \$10 off your registration.



# MERCHANDISE

Our new merchandise is selling like hot cakes - **check it out!**

## Ladies and Mens Vests

Black with blue or red trim

## New Birkie Shirts

Tech shirts that feel like cotton! Includes Aqua FX ® for wicking properties and Freshcare ® for anti-microbial properties



## Canadian Birkie E-News

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