

Canadian Birkie News

Mar 19, 2019 [View this email online](#)



Full Moon Birkie Mar 22 postponed

Swimming anyone? Our contacts at Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area inform us that the tracks have melted out and bare ground is showing in places. With this warm weather continuing, there could even be some areas underwater. Unfortunately we will have to postpone this **Full Moon Birkie** to the 2019/2020 ski season.



Please support our sponsors!

Thanks you to the following community-minded **sponsors**. Their involvement is a key reason we have been able to host the Canadian Birkie Ski Festival since 1985.

King Haakon Circle:

- Alberta Government
- City of Edmonton

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- Strathcona County
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Board opportunities available

There are several volunteer positions available on our Canadian Birkebeiner Society Board of Directors. It is a great deal of fun and is a wonderful way to contribute to the Birkie. Click [here](#) to find out which spots are available. If you have questions about the positions, please contact our [office](#).



Mark your calendar for Feb 7-9, 2020

Our next **Canadian Birkie Ski Festival** will take place on February 7-9, 2020. Please mark your calendar and register this fall. Photo credit JaN Studios.



Congrats Award Winners!

The Canadian Birkebeiner Society has established some special **awards** over our long history. The following were honoured at the 2019 Vikings' Feast. Congratulations to all!

Haakon Haakonsson Award

The following skiers participated in the long events of all three Birkebeiner events: Canadian, Norwegian, and American.

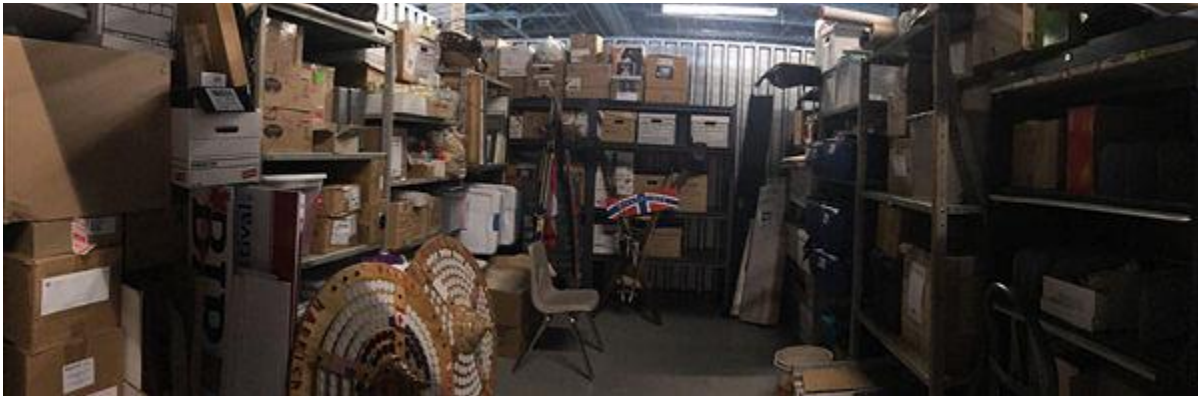
- Shelaine Bateman, Drayton Valley, Alberta
- Marcus Eyre, Calgary, Alberta
- Jeremy Gaudet, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Ted Gaudet, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Douglas Holtan, Mercer Island, Washington
- Rita Robinson, Slave Lake, Alberta
- Chandra Sutherland, Fort McMurray, Alberta

Ole Hovind Award

The Ole Hovind Award is presented annually to the skier who best represents the spirit of the Birkebeiner and the things which Ole valued; skiing for the sheer joy of it, joking around, and just getting out there and doing it. This year the award was presented to former board member and current volunteer **Allan Mayer**.

Founders and Builders Award

The Founders and Builders Award is presented to an individual or group who has worked to create the Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival and/or who has been a key contributor to growing this event over the years. This year the award was presented to long-time volunteer and past board member **Mary Coutts**, photo above.



Looking for a new home

Our rent has gone up twice in the past year, so we are looking for a new location for the Birkie office. We are in search of 250 sq. ft. or more of a combined office space and storage unit. If you know of an inexpensive location to hang up our skis, please [contact us](#).

We are available by appointment-only in the summer and we will be checking email periodically. We will be back in full swing in September.



Did you forget your mittens?

If you were one of the first 100 people to register for the 2019 Birkie Ski Festival you won a pair of free mittens. If you see your name on this [list](#), please **contact** the Birkie office and we will arrange to get you your early bird prize. Graphic design of mitten image by Wingspan Studios.



Vikings Feast a success

Up to 200 people attended our Vikings Feast on February 9, 2019. Woodvale Facility cooked up a scrumptious buffet and the Shumka Studia Ukrainian dancers entertained us throughout the evening. This talented troupe was onsite as a special tribute to our long-standing relationship with the Ukrainian Village. The village has been the start of our long-start ski events for over 25 years. Our oldest 2019 registrant, Frank Haley (age 94!), gave a great speech about Birkie One, the first Canadian Birkie. The speech is posted on our [Birkie Blog](#).



Birkie Sunday at Silver Skate

Birkie Sunday Barnebirkie ski events took place February 17, 2019. Over 110 people were on site for the event that took place at the Silver Skate Festival in William Hawrelak Park. Small and large folk skied 50 m, 500 m, 1.5 km or 3 km. They raced through the obstacle course, tried the Birkie Giant Ski Challenge, warmed up by the fire, drank yummy hot chocolate, and ate a variety of SPUD.ca healthy snacks.

Please do not reply to this newsletter, office contact information below.

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