

Canadian Birkie E-News

NEXT YEAR IS OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

Birkie 30: Feb 8-10, 2019

Birkebeiner 2018 was a great success with over 900 skiers and 500 volunteers making the “best in a decade” trails and weather the perfect experience.

The **Norwegian Birkebeiner** celebrated their 80th anniversary with 30,000 skiers this year. Congratulations on their successful anniversary event.

Our colleagues at the **American Birkebeiner** had 10,000 skiers who enjoyed a near perfect day for participants, volunteers and spectators alike. Congratulations to all involved.

Here in Edmonton we have lots on the go including board meetings, our annual general meeting in May, strategic planning sessions, engaging with sponsors, vendors and donors as well as numerous odd and ends that will keep us busy for a while. We thank you all again and wish you an active and safe spring/summer.

See you at Birkie 30!



FUN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Every two years the Canadian Birkebeiner Society is allowed to hold a casino under the auspices of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. The money we raise in two days goes a long way towards supporting Birkie events.

The venue this year is the Starlight (formerly Palace) Casino at West Edmonton Mall on 4 & 5 June. We still need about 20 volunteers for this vital effort and there are several chip runner, cashier and count room shifts to fill. If you can help us out please contact Roberta Hyland (780-289-0070 or grhyland@telus.net) for more information or fill out a volunteer application form [here](#).



BOARD OPPORTUNITY

The Birkebeiner Society is very thankful to have dedicated and capable board members. Joining the Board is not only a great deal of fun – just ask ANY Board member – but a wonderful way to contribute to the Birkie.

The Canadian Birkebeiner Society is recruiting a **Director of Marketing** as part of its Board of Directors.

The Director is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive marketing and media plan. This an exciting opportunity for a sports enthusiast!



A Call for Board Members

Other positions will also be up for election at our Annual General Meeting in May, 2018.

If you have interest in this or other board positions, please contact the Birkie Coordinator, **Allen Jacobson**.

SPONSORS

Thanks again to our fabulous **Sponsors** for their support and contributions to the event:

King Haakon Circle:

- Alberta Government
- Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village
- Torskeklubben Edmonton
- City of Edmonton
- Strathcona County
- Global Edmonton
- E Construction Ltd.
- Special Event Rentals

Prince Haakon Circle:

- Totem Outdoor Outfitters
- Melcor

Inga Fra Varteig Circle:

- Alberta Parks
- Alley Kat Brewing Company
- Campers Village
- Elk Island National Park
- Fast Trax
- KinFox Consulting
- Lambert Intellectual Property Law
- Lamont County
- MEC
- Ostrem Chemical
- Salomon
- SWIX
- Track 'N Trail

- United Cycle

The Canadian Birkie has a number of **Supporting Contributors and Suppliers** that offer their support for the Festival. We thank them for their valuable contributions to the 2018 Birkie.

A Friend of the Birkie is an organization or individual that promotes the Festival or contributes in some other way to the Birkie. The Birkie would like to thank the 2018 **Friends of the Birkie**.

We are always on the lookout for new sponsors so if you, your company and your vendors / suppliers are interested in joining the Birkie, please let us know. We have great opportunities for business engagement in this Capital Region Marquee event...one of only three Birkebeiner Ski Festivals in the world!

Contact the Birkie Coordinator, **Allen Jacobson**.

FULL MOON BIRKIE

We are always keen to entertain new ideas and the Full Moon Birkie was the brainchild of Board member and skier Bas Delaney. 100 skiers joined us on March 2nd for a delightful nighttime ski at the Waskahegan Staging Area in Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area. The full moon was somewhat hidden by the falling snow but hot drinks, soup, candlelight and camaraderie made for a memorable evening.

Thanks to all involved for support and assistance, particularly Greg Elzinga with Alberta Parks. Don't miss out on this event next year!



UNIQUE AWARDS

The Canadian Birkebeiner Society has established some special awards over our long history. They are presented to people who contribute to the Birkie in numerous ways. The following awards pertain to this year's festival.

Haakon Haakonsson Award

The Haakon Haakonsson award recognizes dedication to the Birkebeiner tradition. It is an award that is presented to skiers who have completed the long distance events in all three International Birkebeiner Events - the Norwegian, American and Canadian. Click [here](#) for more information and to see past recipients.

Congratulations to this year's Haakon Haakonsson Award Winners:

- Andy Campbell, Drayton Valley, Alberta
- Brooke Campbell, Calgary, Alberta
- Michael Deeds, Boulder, Colorado
- James Gantz, Dubuque, Iowa
- Michael Hekkers, Juneau, Alaska
- Kenton Johnson, St. Paul, Minnesota
- Scott Kurytnik, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
- Lester Lind, Philippi, West Virginia
- Sam Schlieder, Spokane, Washington
- Stephen Swanson, Salt Lake City, Utah

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



Wooden Birkie Medallions



Haakon Haakonsson Mug

valued - skiing for the sheer joy of it, joking around and just getting out there and doing it.

Click [here](#) for more information and to see past recipients.

This year the award was presented posthumously to Jackson Thomas Finley. Jackson liked nothing better than skiing the trails at Blackfoot and introduced his family to the sport. He attempted his 10th Birkie in 2005 but had to stop half way through. It was the first race since the inception of the Canadian Birkie that he did not complete. He skied the American Birkie twice and was contemplating the Norwegian event as well before he passed away.

We thank the Finley Family for carrying on the tradition and the Ole Hovind spirit.

John Toonen Memorial Award

This award has been presented to a variety of skiers; the oldest skier in a 55 km event, the youngest in a 55 km event, the last finisher of the event, international skiers and other skiers deemed worthy. Click [here](#) for more information and to see past recipients.

This year the award was presented to Gerald Streefkerk. Gerald is one of only 5 “Red Bibbers” (has skied every Birkie!) and has been a participant and supporter of the Birkie since Day 1. He was a skiing colleague of John’s and together they shared many moments on the Birkie trails. We are very pleased to have him accept the award this year.



Ole Hovind Troll



John Toonen Award

LOST AND FOUND

We still have a fair amount of found items. If you lost some of your belongings, please **contact** the office to arrange pickup. If items are not claimed they will be donated to charity in the spring.



PHOTOS

Our Birkie Photographers, JaN Studios, covered every aspect of this year's event and their photos are available on our website [here](#).

Participants can view and purchase other images on JaN Studio's website. Visit their [Blog](#) to get login and password information for each gallery (start, on course, finish, etc).

An album of other photos from the day is on our Facebook page [here](#).

We would love to hear about your Birkie weekend! Share your favourite Birkie memories with the community on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) using the #SKISINFLIGHT hashtag.



OFFICE HOURS

The office will not have regular office hours now that most of the year end items are finished but we will be checking email and phone messages from time to time.

Please **contact** us to set up a meeting.



**PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO
THIS NEWSLETTER**

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