

Sep 25, 2021 [View this email online](#)



NEW dryland class starts Tuesday!

Our dryland training classes were so popular this fall, we decided to put on a NEW mid-week course. This session consists of five classes and starts on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 10 am. Classes will be one and a half hours long and will take place at Gold Bar Park in Edmonton. Spots are still available, so sign up [here](#) today.



Get ready for the Birkie

There are a few spots left in both our Birkie Training Group Winter Extra session starting October 23, 2021 and our Birkie Training Group Midweek session starting November 30, 2021. Birkie instructors will focus on building the ski specific stamina, strength and technique for skiing the 31 km or 55 km race. Register [here](#).



Registration opens October 14

Mark your calendars! The 2022 Canadian Birkie Ski Festival will take place February 11th to 28th. Our in-person Birkie ski events will be held from February 11th to 13th and our Virtual Canadian Birkie events will be held February 14th to 28th, 2022. Registration for in-person events will open through Zone4 on October 14, 2021 at Noon. Check out the details [here](#).



A great loss to the skiing community

The Birkie group was devastated this month by the passing of our board member, Mike Dickinson, after a very brief battle with cancer. Mike was elected Secretary in May after a year as a Director-at-Large. He will be remembered for his love of cross country skiing and many years of support for the Birkie as Technical Director for Nordiq Alberta. We will be honouring his memory with a permanent marker in his beloved Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area. Our condolences to Mike's wife Solange, and his

family. They have kindly requested gifts in memory of Mike to be given to the [Canadian Birkebeiner Society](#).



The Birkie needs your help

The Birkie needs your input and skills to organize the Canadian Birkie Ski Festival. There are key volunteer positions available for you. Please check out our [volunteer webpage](#) for a list of available jobs to sign up for. We look forward to having you become a part of our fun crew!



Casino fundraiser

Our Birkieland groomed trails are courtesy of a unique partnership between Canadian Birebeiner Society and Alberta Parks. The Birkie pays for the equipment; while Parks pays for the staff to operate the equipment. Our Casino fundraiser is a key opportunity for the Birkebeiner to keep this equipment maintained. Our last casino took place over three years ago, as such our upcoming fundraiser on October 4-5 is critical. We need to fill eight more spots. Please note volunteers will need to wear masks and show proof of vaccination before entering the venue. Sign up [here](#) to help.



Pick the 2022 Birkie slogan

This year you get to help choose the 2022 Canadian Birkie Ski Festival slogan. Go to this Facebook Poll [here](#) and pick between five possible catchphrases.



Thank you Nicole

Huge thank you to Nicole Brenda for her work as our Birkie Administrator for the past eight years. We will miss her friendly manner, fun personality and office skills. She was a joy to work with and she did so much behind the scenes to make our Birkie a success. She also trained our new Birkie Administrator, Mary Ann Merritt. Mary Ann says that she has VERY large shoes to fill and has appreciated Nicole's help with creating a smooth transition. The Birkie office is up and running for another incredible ski season!



Whoops...the link works now!

The link to the survey in our last newsletter didn't work. Here is the same news, but with the correct survey link. The [Human Dimensions Research Lab](#) at the University of Alberta wants to hear from visitors to the Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area. This research project is an investigation into the values, perceptions and behaviours of visitors to the park. The management of hunting and non-hunting activities can be adapted to optimize user experiences. Take this 30 minute [survey here](#). It is not aimed at changing park policies and the funding agency is [Alberta Conservation Association](#).

Please do not reply to this newsletter, office [contact](#) information below.
Photo Credit: Jan Studios; Virtual Birkie participants

Canadian Birkie Ski Events
Feb 11-28, 2022



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