

“Beat the Brits at the Birkie Challenge”

On February 10th up to 2000 cross country skiers will be enjoying the trails of Cooking Lake- Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area at the annual Canadian Birkebeiner Cross Country Ski Festival.

Among those skiing in distances of 55, 31 and 13 kilometres are twelve soldiers from Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. These soldiers will compete in the “Group Challenge” i.e. most kilometres skied by an eligible group in a given category. Their category is “Spit and Polish”, and the main competitors (so far) are the British Army Training Unit soldiers stationed at Suffield Base.

“We Canadians are out to win this year – it’s on our home turf”, says Master Corporal Brian Leblanc of B Company. “We will be skiing with our Regimental Colours”. Brian has been a member of our armed forces for twelve years and skis cross country two or three times a week.

However, the twelve British soldiers who are competing in the Birkebeiner fully intend to give the Canadian group all they can handle. “We’re fit and ready to take on the competition”, they say.

We invite schools, families and clubs to “add up their mileage” during the Birkie in various categories. Group Challenge information can be found on the Canadian Birkebeiner website.

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More information on the Group Challenge and participants -
Canadian Birkebeiner Society (780) 430-7153 www.canadianbirkie.com
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