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## December 15, 2025

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### In This Issue:

- 2026 membership
- Volunteers needed
- Cross-country skiing
- ...and more!

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## From the Board

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### Sign up for Your 2026 EBTC Membership

Your 2025 membership expires on Dec. 31. Click [here](#) to sign up for 2026.

- Fees remain the same as 2025: \$45 for one person and \$25 for an additional adult in the family. EBTC offers great value for some 200 rides, other outdoor activities and social events.
- Sign up now so you can register for walk/hikes, cross-country skiing and socials happening early in the new year.

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### Volunteers Required

EBTC continues to seek volunteers to support the planning of the 2026 ride program, whether series rides, once-a-season day rides, or multi-day tours. To express your interest and learn more about ride or other volunteer opportunities, please contact June MacGregor at [President@bikeclub.ca](mailto:President@bikeclub.ca)

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## Upcoming Events

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### Check for 'What's On' in the Calendar or in a Pop-Up Email:

Walks and cross-country skiing are weather dependent and are planned as Pop-Ups. If you are on EBTC's Pop-Up List, you'll receive a Karelo email with the link to register whenever an event with short notice is available in the Calendar. You can also regularly click [here](#) for the Calendar of Events to view what's on and to register.

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## Volunteer for 2026 Edmonton Birkebeiner

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Volunteer at Birkie Aid Station, Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026  
Freeman Taylor, EBTC Member

EBTC has participated in the Birkie for over 25 years by supplying volunteers to operate the Round-Up Food Station. This is the first food station where both the 31 km and 55 km skiers pass through.

Many of us have worked at the station for several years now and for this year's event we are seeking additional EBTC volunteers to join in the fun on **Saturday, February 14th**.

As volunteers we have an early morning start to set up the station, prepare Gatorade, water, and various snacks for skiers. Once skiers start to arrive, the environment is fast paced and continues until the last skier has passed through.

What you need to know:

-Be prepared for a 7:00 a.m. meet-up at the Waskahegan staging area in Blackfoot Provincial Recreational Park where, once all our equipment is loaded up, we are transported to the Round-Up Station. We usually finish around 2:00 p.m. and are taken back to the staging area for refreshments and a smokie or hot dog lunch.

-Remember that it could be (will be) cold so dress in layers of your warmest clothing and have appropriate warm footwear as you will be standing in the snow for several hours (we do set up a tent with a heater and start a firepit to offer some warmth)

-Most of all bring your biggest smile, be prepared to laugh (even when cursing the cold), cheer on the skiers, and enjoy the company of your fellow volunteers

If you would like more information and/or would like to volunteer, please contact Freeman Taylor at [freeman.taylor@shaw.ca](mailto:freeman.taylor@shaw.ca).



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## Weekly Recap

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### X-Country Skiing at Victoria Park, Monday, Dec. 15

Sonja Taylor, Ski Leader

The weather gods cooperated and 10 of us 'broke' in our Nordic ski legs Monday morning! The skier-set tracks were certainly more than adequate and we all enjoyed either a gentle 5.5 or almost 8 km ski around Victoria Park Golf Course in the middle of beautiful Edmonton!

Keep your eyes peeled for more pop-up Nordic events!



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## From the Saddle

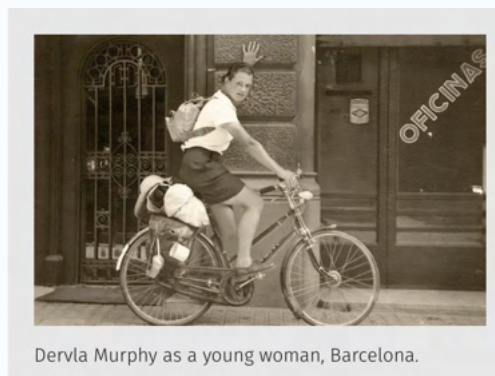
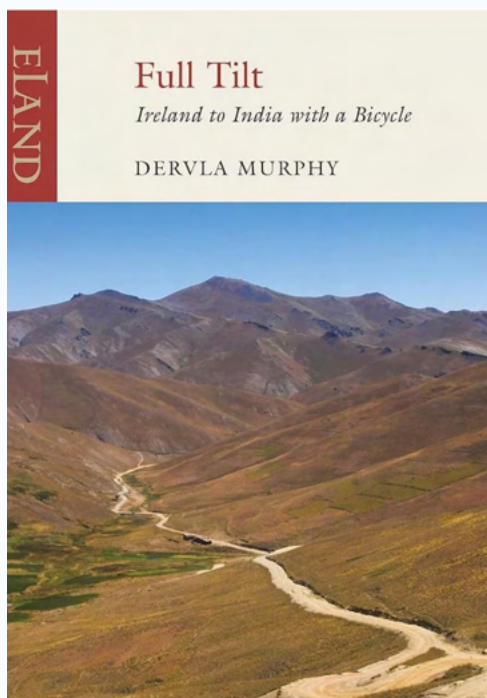
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### Winter Reading: Full Tilt - Ireland to India with a Bicycle

Ann Sutherland, Newsletter Editor

There's nothing better than cozying up with a good book if the winter weather is nasty. I recently read a fascinating account of a young Irishwoman, Dervla Murphy, who in 1963 rode her bicycle from Ireland to India. Published in 1965, it recounts her journey on bike across Europe during one of the worst winters in memory, through Persia and Afghanistan, over the Himalayas to Pakistan and into India. (Oh, yeah, she carried a pistol in her pants pocket, to be on the safe side!)

I found a copy at Edmonton Public Library, but it is still in print and available at bookstores as well.



Dervla Murphy as a young woman, Barcelona.

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## Helpful Links

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Sign Up:

Click here for  
EBTC  
membership

Click here to join  
the Pop-up  
Email List

Click here for  
RideWithGPS  
member access

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### Dive deeper into the EBTC community:

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