

**Skiing Together? Drive Together!**

Birkie Parking Limited, Car Pool If You Can

February 2, 2009

Edmonton – More than 1,500 skiers and volunteers are currently expected to show up for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Birkebeiner Ski Festival starting at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, just east of the city. With so many participants, the Birkebeiner Society is asking that participants car pool to the festival where they can.

The Alberta government and surrounding municipalities have made a huge effort to ensure safe roads and clear parking lots for Birkebeiner skiers. Parking lots will be ploughed but snow clearing efforts will leave big windrows of snow and less room to park. Skiers and volunteers are asked to car pool as much as possible to reduce the number of vehicles on site. There will also be continuous transportation provided from the Birkie finish stadium back to parking lots.

The Birkebeiner Ski Festival is Canada's largest classic style skiing event. The Festival utilizes 100 kilometers of trails set crossing through Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, Elk Island National Park, and the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area.

This year, the Festival is holding five ski events of differing lengths and difficulties. This is to ensure that all skiers, no matter the level they are at, can enjoy the festival, feel the heartbeat and ski the legend of the Birkebeiner.

The Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival will be held on February 13 and 14, 2009. Participants can register online at [www.eventsonline.ca](http://www.eventsonline.ca) until February 11 or by mail before February 7. Trail conditions and more event information can be found at [www.canadianbirkie.com](http://www.canadianbirkie.com).

-30-

---

Media Inquiries can be directed to:

Ryan O'Byrne  
Marketing Director  
780-430-7153  
[canadianbirkie@telus.net](mailto:canadianbirkie@telus.net)

or

Cathy Schreiner  
Executive Director  
780-430-7153  
[canadianbirkie@telus.net](mailto:canadianbirkie@telus.net)