

**Birkebeiner Ski Festival Early Bird Entry Deadline Extended**

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*Edmonton...* With the snow finally hitting Edmonton and area, the Canadian Birkebeiner Society has announced that Early Bird Entry fees for the 21st annual Birkebeiner Ski Festival have been extended to January 14, 2009.

Organizers for the cross country ski festival are encouraging participants to register early, to take advantage of the continued early bird entry fees. Fees increase after January 14, 2009 with the final deadlines of February 7<sup>th</sup> for mail-in entries to be received, and February 11<sup>th</sup> for online entries.

This is the first year that the Canadian Birkebeiner is using online registration through a well established Canadian company EventsOnline.ca. This is an opportunity for participants from anywhere in the world to test out the Birkie's new simple and secure online registration system for the event.

The online registration system is part of the Canadian Birkebeiner Society's commitment to a greener festival. "If most participants enter online, a lot of paper and trees can be saved", says Brian Lucas, Chief of Race and long time volunteer.

Also new to the festival this year is the "Chilly Fest Awards" on site throughout the afternoon. The top three winners in each event, the top three age class winners in the 55km events, and the special Haakon Haakonsson Awards will be presented near the Festival Tent and finish line.

This year, the Birkebeiner Ski Festival will run on February 13 and 14, 2009. Information on the Festival events, Learn to Loppet ski lessons and trail reports can be found at [www.canadianbirke.com](http://www.canadianbirke.com).

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