

**Ski for \$99, \$39 and \$9 in '09**

**Birkie Registration Fees reduced for the New Year**

January 14, 2009

*Edmonton* – The Canadian Birkebeiner Society announced Monday that the final level of entry fees for the Birkebeiner Ski Festival will be lower than previously announced. Starting January 15, race fees will be \$99 for the long events (55 km or 31 km), \$39 for the Mini Birkie (13 km), and \$9 for Ole's Tour (2.5 / 4 km).

The new pricing is part of the society's push to attract last minute entrants to this year's events.

"We understand that times are a little tougher these days," Cathy Schreiner, Executive Director for the Canadian Birkebeiner Society said Monday. "We want everyone to be able to participate, and these lower prices should help with that."

Schreiner also noted that the recent snowfall set the stage for what promises to be a fantastic festival.

"The milder weather after good snowfalls has allowed the BR 180 machine to lay down some of the best tracks we have ever had," she says. "I think this year's Birkie will be one of the best."

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).

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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)