

Car Pool to the Birkie – Please

Near-record snowfalls this year have provided excellent ski trails. However, abundant snow also creates problems. At Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, where the Canadian Birkebeiner 55 and 31 km events begin, snow piles from clearing the parking lot are huge. Warmer than usual temperatures also mean the snow is heavy and time-consuming to move.

This means parking space will be tight for this year's Birkie. Therefore skiers and volunteers are asked to car pool as much as possible to reduce the number of vehicles on site.

Assisting with parking and other Birkie tasks will be a new crew of volunteers aged seventeen to twenty-one, from all over Canada. "We're delighted to have twenty-three young people from Katimavik, Canada's most successful youth volunteer program, helping us out at the event," says Arnold Grandt of Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.

The Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village "Birkie Long Start" is located approximately forty minutes east of Edmonton on Highway 16 – three kilometres east of the main entrance to Elk Island National Park.

For weather and trail conditions leading up to the February 10th event, check the Birkie website.