



ONTARIO RINGETTE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 8 – 10, 2018

Hosted in Toronto

49th Annual Report

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	John Voss
VICE PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATION	Janet Logan
VICE PRESIDENT, TECHNICAL	Kelly Sitland
VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE	Robert Crandall
VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATION	Heather McTavish Taylor

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

ATHLETE DIRECTOR	Karlee Sutton
PAST PRESIDENT	Vacant

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

CENTRAL REGION	Colin Deans
EASTERN REGION	Mike Lester
NORTHEAST REGION	Terry Ablett
SOUTHERN REGION	Jim File
WESTERN REGION	Brian Breckles
NORTHWEST REGION	Vacant

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	Fred Black
OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT	Amy Murray
COACHING DEVELOPMENT	Gerald Lamoureux
RULES DEVELOPMENT	Vacant
SPORT DEVELOPMENT	Tania Pettit
GAMES & TOURNAMENTS	Kathy Noxon
ADULT DEVELOPMENT	Nanci Laroche
ELITE DEVELOPMENT	Harry Hirsimaki

PROVINCIAL OFFICE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Pamela Julian
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Karla Xavier
OFFICE MANAGER	Bill Dressing

Table of Contents

TRIBUTES.....	4
Sam Jacks, Founder	4
Agnes Jacks, Ambassador.....	4
Remembering Agnes Jacks C.M.....	4
Conference Schedule	7
AGENDA – 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....	8
Minutes of the 2017 ORA Annual General Meeting.....	9
Executive Committee Reports	13
President.....	13
Vice President, Administration.....	15
Vice President, Finance	16
VP Communications.....	17
Athlete Director.....	18
Regional Directors Reports.....	19
Western Region.....	19
Eastern Region.....	20
Southern Region	22
Central Region	23
Northeast Region	24
Program Chairs Reports	26
Coaching Development.....	26
Membership Services.....	27
Officiating Development	28
Adult Development.....	29
Games and Tournaments.....	30
Staff Reports.....	31
Executive Director	31
2018 Championship Results.....	32

TRIBUTES

Sam Jacks, Founder



Sam Jacks, Director of the North Bay Recreation Department, invented Ringette™ in 1963. Through his insight to develop a winter team sport alternative to boys' hockey, Ringette™ has grown into a world-class amateur sport in just 40 short years.

Agnes Jacks, Ambassador

Continuing the work of her late husband, Mrs. Jacks held the esteemed title of "Ringette Grand Dame" for the role she has played out of the goodness of her heart for, shall we say, the thousands of daughters she never had (mother of 3 sons). Agnes attended countless Ringette™ functions and events not only in Ontario, but also across Canada and the World, reminding all of us about the history of Ringette™, its purposes and philosophies.

In 2002 Agnes Jacks was inducted as a member of the Order of Canada. Mrs. Jacks was recognized for her outstanding efforts on behalf of the sport of Ringette™ in Canada and internationally.



Remembering Agnes Jacks C.M.

A Member of the Order of Canada, Agnes Jacks was the widow of Sam Jacks, who invented the sport of Ringette™ in 1963 in North Bay, Ontario. While the sport lost Mr. Jacks' guiding hand through his untimely passing in 1975, the Ringette™ community continued to benefit greatly from Agnes' dedicated and enthusiastic promotion of the sport both within Canada and around the world.

Over the years, Agnes proved herself to be truly dedicated, not only to the sport but also to the people in Ringette™. She faithfully attended numerous Ringette™ tournaments and championship events and never failed to provide just the right word of enthusiasm or congratulations to players, coaches, officials and spectators. The Ringette™ community appropriately laid claim to Agnes as their very own goodwill ambassador.

“At every opportunity, Agnes told us that we were ‘all her girls’ and we knew she truly meant that. Every Ringette™ athlete, coach, referee, parent, volunteer and fan, truly was like family to her and if you were in that family, you felt Agnes’ love and support,” said long-time Ringette™ athlete Laura Warner. “When she told us to ‘stay out of the penalty box’ we honestly felt a touch more inspired to play Ringette™ in the true spirit of the game. Agnes knew that Ringette™ was a unique sport that offered something invaluable to women. It is a game of unparalleled speed, finesse, and perhaps most importantly, passion. Agnes understood that and did more than anyone I’ve ever met to further infect us all with the love of the game.”

In 1998, Agnes Jacks proudly lent her name to a scholarship to recognize Ringette™ players, coaches and officials who demonstrate strong academic performance and a commitment to the sport of Ringette™. The scholarships are awarded annually during the closing ceremonies of the Canadian Ringette™ Championships.

Sadly, the Ringette™ community lost their goodwill ambassador on April 1, 2005, when Agnes Jacks passed away in her hometown of North Bay, Ontario. The Agnes Jacks Scholarship Awards continue to live on and while recipients continue to achieve academic excellence and commitment to the sport, they also honour her memory and carry forward her dedication and love of Ringette™.

In the years prior to her passing, Agnes had worked very hard lobbying various levels of government to put up signs in North Bay to recognize the town as the birthplace of Ringette™. On December 18th, 2005, the vision of Agnes and Sam Jacks was realized when the signs became a reality.

Agnes will be dearly missed and never replaced, but she will always be remembered.

“Those of us who were lucky enough to meet Agnes and be touched by her wonderful soul will now take on the responsibility of ensuring that her message and her spirit are carried on in the way they deserve to be,” added Warner.

More information on Ringette Canada and its programs can be obtained at www.ringette.ca





Established in 1969, the Ontario Ringette Association is a non-profit amateur sport organization for individuals who wish to partake in a winter team sport primarily, but not limited to, females. The current 12,217 registered affiliate members come from more than 70 registered associations within six (6) regions.

The Ontario Ringette Association (ORA) is comprised solely of the membership of the 76 Local Associations throughout Ontario. Local Associations are Registered Members of the ORA and vote on matters pertaining to the ORA at specified meetings or forums (AGM). A Board of Directors is elected by the membership to manage the affairs of the ORA. Standing Committees have been established to administer and review the policies and programs of the ORA and to recommend pertinent changes as necessary. All Standing Committees are responsible to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors approves all ORA policies, which in turn are ratified by the Membership at the Annual General Meetings.

The ORA office is responsible to the Board of Directors, performing administrative and financial management functions for the Board and Membership. These functions include accounting and bookkeeping and maintaining and updating a variety of records pertaining to registration, clinics, camps, championships and other programs for Ringette™ in Ontario. Decisions and direction given by the office are based entirely on policies and procedures already in place. Board of Directors approval is required in order to deal with matters that do not fall within established policies.

Office hours are 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m., Monday to Friday. During the months of June, July and August – Friday office hours are 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT **RINGETTE™ FOR LIFE!**

The Ontario Ringette Association pledges its effort to promote fun, fitness and friendship in a safe play environment and is dedicated to quality performance and fair play opportunity for all ages.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, June 8, 2018

8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Mike Beatons' Retirement Party

Saturday, June 9, 2018

8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Seminar #1 – Leading the Way – Matt Allen

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Health Break

11:15 – 12:30 p.m. Seminar #2 – Rowan's Law Round Table Discussion

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. AGM Registration

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. AGM Meeting

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Caucus Meeting & Health Break

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Open Forum

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Cocktail (Cash Bar)

6:30 p.m. Volunteer Recognition Awards Dinner

Sunday, June 11, 2018

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and Socialize

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA – 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Formal Opening – Verification of Quorum
2. Adoption of Agenda
 - 2.1 **MOTION AGM-18-01 THAT:** The Agenda be adopted.
3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation
 - 3.1 **MOTION AGM-18-02 THAT:** The Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation be accepted.
4. Reports from the Board of Directors
 - President
 - Vice-President Administration
 - Vice-President Technical
 - Vice-President Finance
 - Athlete Director
 - 4.1 **MOTION AGM-18-03 THAT:** The published Reports of the Board of Directors be accepted.
5. Reports from the Regional Directors and Standing Committees
 - 5.1 **MOTION AGM-18-04 THAT:** The Reports of the Regional Directors and Standing Committee Chairs as published be accepted.
6. Financial Report – Robert Crandall, VP Finance
 - Audited Statements as at March 31, 2018
 - Budget for 2018/2019
 - Appointment of Auditors
 - 6.1 **MOTION AGM-18-05 THAT:** The Audited Financial Statements of the Ontario Ringette Association for the year ending March 31, 2018 be accepted.
 - 6.2 **MOTION AGM-18-06 THAT:** Lynne Remigio, Chartered Accountant be appointed Auditor of the Corporation for the year ending March 31, 2019.
7. Elections – Colin Deans, Nominations and Committee Chair
 - 7.1 **MOTION AGM-18-07 THAT:** _____, _____, and _____ be accepted as Director-At-Large for the 2018 - 2020 seasons.
 - 7.2 **MOTION AGM-18-08 THAT:** _____ be accepted as Athlete Director for the 2018-2020 seasons.
 - 7.3 **MOTION AGM-18-09 THAT:** The ballots be destroyed.
8. Recess – Directors’ Caucus for The Purpose of Election of Officers
9. Reconvene – Presentation of 2018-2019 Board of Directors
10. New Business – from the Membership

There is no new business.
11. Adjournment
 - 11.1 **MOTION AGM-18-10 THAT:** The 2018 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

Minutes of the 2017 ORA Annual General Meeting



ONTARIO RINGETTE ASSOCIATION
305 Milner Avenue, Suite 912
Toronto, Ontario
M1B 3V1

MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO RINGETTE ASSOCIATION INC. HELD AT:

**FOUR POINTS SHERATON HOTEL
ON JUNE 10, 2017 COMMENCING AT 2:00 P.M.
HEREINAFTER CITED AS AGM-17**

Roll Call

President	John Voss
Vice President Administration	Janet Logan
Vice President Technical	Kelly Sitland
Vice President Finance	Robert Crandall
Eastern Region Director	Mike Lester
Central Region Director	Colin Deans
Northeast Region Director	Terry Ablett
Southern Region Director	Jim File
Western Region Director	Brian Breckles
Athlete Director	Erienne Beuglet

Absent

Past President	Kim Noxon
Northwest Region Director	Vacant
Vice President, Communications	Vacant

Staff in Attendance

Executive Director	Mike Beaton
Technical Director	Karla Xavier
Office Manager	Bill Dressing

AGENDA ITEMS	MOTIONS
<p>1 VERIFICATION OF QUORUM</p>	<p>1.1 Roll Call of Associations was taken. Present: 43 Associations carrying 66 votes Represented by Proxy: 18 Associations carrying 32 votes Total Votes Present: 98 50 votes constitute a simple majority. 63 votes constitute a two-thirds majority.</p> <p>1.2. The Executive Director outlined the business meeting procedures and voting procedures.</p> <p>1.3. Scrutinizers/Sergeant at Arms were appointed.</p> <p>1.4. Review of Procedures by President.</p>
<p>2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA</p>	<p>2.1 Motion AGM-17-01 THAT: the Agenda be adopted.</p> <p>Moved: Sault Ste. Marie Seconded: Cambridge Carried</p>
<p>3 ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS AGM MEETING MINUTES</p>	<p>3.1 Motion AGM-17-02 THAT: the minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting be accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Walden Seconded: Sunderland Carried</p>
<p>4 REPORTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President, Administration • Vice President, Technical • Vice President, Finance • Athlete Director • Past President <p>4.1. Motion AGM-17-03 THAT: the published Reports of the Board of Directors be accepted. Moved: Upper Ottawa Valley Recruits Seconded: Sudbury Carried</p>

<p>5 REPORTS FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS</p>	<p>5.1. Motion AGM-17-04 THAT: the reports of the Regional Directors and Standing Committee Chairs as published be accepted.</p> <p>Moved: London Seconded: Gloucester-Cumberland Carried</p>
<p>6. FINANCIAL REPORT</p>	<p>Robert Crandall, VP Finance, presented an overview of the audited financial statements and the budget for the 2017-2018 season.</p> <p>6.1 Motion AGM-17-05 THAT: the Audited Financial Statements and the report of the auditor of the Ontario Ringette Association for the year ending March 31, 2017 be accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Oshawa Seconded: Pickering Carried</p> <p>1. Motion AGM-17-06 THAT: Lynne Remigio, Chartered Accountant be appointed Auditor of the Corporation for the year ending March 31, 2018.</p> <p>Moved: Cambridge Seconded: Valley East Carried</p>
<p>7. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES</p>	<p>7.1 Motion AGM-17-06 THAT: Be it resolved that: Article IV: Governance read as follows:</p> <p>4.4.1 Call for Nominations – At least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee will issue a ‘Call for Nominations’ for Directors-at-Large using any means of communications. The ‘Call of Nominations’ will state the method which the nominations are to be made, the requirements for the position, and the deadline for submission, which will be no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Moved: Timmins Seconded: Forest Carried</p>

<p>8 ELECTIONS – NOMINATIONS AS PRESENTED BY THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR</p>	<p>Presented by Melinda Suchard, Nomination Committee Chair</p> <p>8.1 Motion AGM-17-07 THAT: that three (3) of John Voss, Robert Crandall and Heather McTavish-Taylor be accepted as Director-At-Large for 2017-18 and 2018-2019, with one (1) being Director-At-Large for 2017-2018 effective June 10th, 2017</p> <p>Acclaimed</p>
<p>8 RECESS</p>	<p>Directors’ Caucus for the Election of the Executive Committee</p>
<p>9 PRESENTATION OF 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p>	<p>During Recess, Melinda Suchard, Nomination Committee Chair, convened a Caucus Meeting of the Board of Directors to establish the Executive Committee positions.</p> <p>The new Executive Committee was announced:</p> <p>President: John Voss VP Administration: Janet Logan VP Finance: Robert Crandall VP Technical: Kelly Sitland VP Communications: Heather McTavish-Taylor</p> <p>Robert Crandall was elected for a one year term only.</p>
<p>10 NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>There was no new business from the Membership.</p>
<p>11 ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>12.1 Motion AGM-17-08 THAT: the meeting be adjourned.</p> <p>Moved: Sault Ste. Marie Seconded: Gloucester-Cumberland Carried</p> <p>Time: 3:53 pm.</p>

Executive Committee Reports

President

Participants in Ringette in Ontario are eager to see the sport continue to grow and develop. The Board of Directors understands that to make this growth possible, the ORA needs to change. We need to rethink what we do, and how we do it. As part of that change we will need new people with different skills to take on important roles in the evolving organization.

We have started to make those changes. With the planned retirement of our long-serving Executive Director Mike Beaton, a search committee led by Central Region Director Colin Deans undertook a thorough search process. The work involved 5 directors and an external consultant, and took 9 months, and included consultations with a number of stakeholders inside and outside of the ORA to identify the needs of the organization. As a result of this process, Pamela Julian joined ORA on April 1, 2018 as our new Executive Director. She brings experience in running a provincial sports organization as the former executive director of Dive Ontario. She has strong relations with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, with other PSO's and with other sports-related agencies. Pam brings the energy and skills that ORA needs to embark on a period of change and growth.

Mike Beaton's retirement marks the end of 20 years with ORA, 18 of them as Executive Director. Mike's steady administrative hand has kept ORA on track for a long time, taking us from a period of instability when he joined, to the ORA of today, which provides a strong platform from which we can build for the future. I extend my personal thanks to Mike for his many contributions to ORA over the years, and for his professionalism and support through the recent transition period. We all wish Mike the very best in what we know will be an active retirement.

Part of the plan for change is for operational responsibilities to be transferred from volunteer Board members to ORA staff. This will help to ensure the proper skills and the proper continuity can be brought to the timely and effective implementation and execution of policies and plans. As Executive Director, Pam will be accountable to the Board in this regard.

As part of this evolution, the Board's role is also changing – from an operational, hands-on board, to a governance or oversight board. The Board's emphasis will be on “insight, foresight, and oversight”. In other words, the Board will be responsible for strategy and policy formulation to provide staff with direction and control, and for oversight, to ensure the organization is meeting its goals while adhering to its policies.

Three Director-at-Large positions are to be elected at this Annual General Meeting. It is noteworthy that none of the three long-serving incumbent directors are standing for re-election. For certain, this is not because they do not want to be involved. These directors are stepping back to make room for new perspectives and new skills to come to the Board table, as part of our initiative of change. Janet Logan, Rob Crandall, and Kelly Sitland have taken very personally the obligation of a director to put the interests of the organization ahead of their own interests. I salute them for the enormous time, care and attention they have given to the Ontario Ringette Association as members of the Board over the years. We will continue to draw on their vast knowledge and experience to help us navigate the many changes and challenges that lie ahead.

We are embarking on a process that is not unlike renovating a house while you live in it. While there are many things we may want to change, we can't change them all at once, and we have to keep the house functional throughout the process. Some things will take longer than we hoped, and we will doubtless make mistakes along the way. But it is an important and necessary change, and I am confident the end result will prove worth the effort.

Any major renovation requires a good set of plans, and the next step in our process is a thorough strategic planning process to clearly define our future direction, and how we are going to get there. The planning process is valuable as a conversation among stakeholders to identify and agree on values, priorities and goals, and we intend that our strategic planning process will provide ample opportunity for members of Ontario's Ringette community to contribute to this conversation.

Change is necessary for growth, but change is hard. It comes with challenge, with frustration and pain, and sometimes with loss. Members of the Ringette community in Ontario are passionate about the sport, and we will draw on that passion and commitment to energize the ORA for the task ahead.

I'd like to express my thanks to my fellow members of the Board of Directors for their dedication and thoughtful service. As we have worked through our process for change, or dealt with the more routine matters that have come to the Board, it has been my privilege to work with a group that clearly has the best interests of Ringette at heart, and works collaboratively and constructively to move ORA ahead.

My thanks to ORA staff, who have continued to show dedication and professionalism through this period of change.

And finally, my thanks to all the regional and local association executives and volunteers, coaches and officials who are the frontline service providers who make our sport possible for the thousands of players in Ontario.

Yours in Ringette,



President
Ontario Ringette Association

Vice President, Administration

The AGM is a time when we reflect on the season just passed and the season yet to come. We take stock of what works and what needs improvement. We share our successes and hope that we have done our best to benefit the athletes, coaches, officials and their families. We strive to make Ringette a fun and welcoming sport.

This year G&T, Membership Services and Adult Development reported to me. I would like to thank Kathy Noxon, Fred Black and Nanci Laroche and their committee members for working tirelessly to make the experience of all who take part, one to remember. The volunteers on these committees rarely get the thanks or recognition they deserve and that is an issue we need to work to improve.

The Volunteer Recognition Program continues to be a work in progress. I would like to think that every Association or Region would have at least one nominee to put forward for an end of year award. This sport thrives because of our volunteer base, whether at the Local Association, Regional or Provincial level. We need to remember that and realize that as we are expecting others to do their part so must we do ours'.

I would like to thank Mike Beaton for all the help he has provided to me over the last 20 years as I learned the ropes as an Association President, a Regional G&T Coordinator, G&T Committee Chair and ORA Vice President. My favourite two words from Mike, "That's Housekeeping"!

Thank you to Karla, Bill, Mike and Pam in the ORA office for helping to keep all of us on task.

In closing a final thank you to the Executive and the Regional Directors for the hard work that has gone into making this season a truly memorable one.

Respectfully Submitted

Janet Logan
ORA VP Administration

Vice President, Finance

The Ontario Ringette Association continues to operate on a sound financial footing. Bottom line, we ran a deficit of \$67,401 after having run a surplus of \$82,528 the previous year. This was as planned and the three main reasons were:

- We hired Arcus Consulting Group to help us find a new executive director at a cost of \$27,763. Arcus brought a lot to the table and this was money well spent.
- We spent 90% of the Sport Promotion Fund raised 3 years ago for a total of \$27,409. We had the money in the bank and finally did something with it.
- Ringette Canada raised its rates by \$1 a head for a total of \$14,371. They are doing so again this year too.
- Our Members Fund starts the new year at \$90,793. This is a very healthy balance and we should plan to spend it down moderately again.

As you can see, these were relative infrequent or one-time events. I believe the underlying finances of the ORA remain excellent. The auditor was happy with our financial controls and the good state of our bookkeeping.

Items of interest this past year:

- The World Ringette Championships in Mississauga. We were the largest sponsor and hosted a box to court our media contacts and introduce them to Ringette.
- There was a welcome increase in spending on development and outreach from many committees.
- New videos (shot during the Worlds) were created to explain and sell the value proposition of Ringette.
- We rebuilt our website (at last) and there is much more still to come.

Looking forward:

- We plan to hire a marketing coordinator and also spend \$20,000 or more on advertising and marketing.
- We will develop and support 'half-ice Ringette' in conjunction with Ringette Canada.
- We will put a new emphasis on obtaining government grants.
- 'Fewer meetings, more doing'. We are planning to reallocate staff time to be more supportive of the committees so that routine paperwork is done in the office and not during valuable volunteer hours. The committees will be freed to do more connecting with members, planning and brainstorming.
- We are budgeting for a more professional, more outgoing office presence while maintaining what we already do well.

And finally, a word of thanks to everyone who has helped this year to make our finances go better! It is unsung work but vital nonetheless and I thank you all.

Robert C Crandall
Vice-President, Finance

VP Communications

- Went live with the **new website** previewed at the last AGM on June 30, 2017
 - Lots of positive and constructive feedback leading to some minor modifications and updates over the course of the year
- Pulled a **Marketing team** together from across the province including Christine MacDonald, Cigi Manning, Amy Keyes-German, Freedom Warne, Kath Chopp, Kristen Cadotte to brainstorm ideas.
- Attended a Marketing case competition at Fanshawe College in August –Marketing students were given a case about the ORA and were asked to develop **Marketing strategies** to help us grow our membership.
- Sponsored the **World Ringette Championships** to promote Ringette across the Province and to engage key stakeholders.
- Delivered a **PR campaign** focused on the Ontario athletes that were competing on Team Canada. Provided media training to our athletes and reached out to local press to gain traction in many local areas.
- Developed a Marketing campaign focused on the emotional benefits of Ringette. **Created seven videos** – each using these core values as our message and our interviewing Ontario players, parents and coaches as the stars. Utilized the presence and draw of Catriona LeMay Doan to promote our sport.
- Improved our **social media presence** by updating our YouTube channel and by adding Instagram.
- Briefed the new Executive Director on the status of the website and discussed ways to continue to renovate it to make it more accessible and user friendly. A new project is underway – under her guidance.

Heather McTavish-Taylor
Vice-President, Communications

Athlete Director

Congratulations to all players, officials, coaches, teams, associations and volunteers on such a great season. This year was packed with lots of excitement for all, including lots of games, tournaments, provincials, regionals, and the locally hosted World Championships. Certainly, lots of memories were made by all, so a big congratulation to everyone. There were no major concerns brought forth by players to me this year. Congratulations to Michelle Williamson and Halle Woolley for receiving the Jackie Lajeunesse Scholarship Award and thank you to all applicants.

It has been an incredible year serving the players of the association on the Ontario Ringette Board, however, due to personal circumstances I will not be returning next year. Thank you to all, enjoy your summer and good luck at tryouts!

See You All Around the Rinks,

Karlee Sutton
Athlete Director

Regional Directors Reports



Western Region

Western Region had another good season this year. Many of our teams were successful at the Provincial Championships with 17 teams winning medals and sportsmanship awards. Our provincial program is running well and creating opportunities to play at all of the desired levels. Our regional program is also running very well thanks to the hard work of our many volunteers. In addition, we added 30 new referees this season which bodes well for the future.

Our registration numbers in Western Region have not seen much change over the last few years with 171 teams registering this past season. As a region we are very aware of how important it is to have a healthy and vibrant U8 community of teams and we continue to stress the importance of this to all of our associations. September 2018 is being promoted across our region in all associations as Come Try Ringette Month. We hope this will have a strong impact on registration for all of our associations. New as a pilot this year we will have a CTR team conducting the on-ice session at the CTR events.

Our Western Region Regional Championships were held in Kitchener and area in March and were a huge success with 83 youth teams taking part in the event. A huge thank you to our many volunteers who help with all of the events and tournaments in our region.

We lost one of our long time volunteers this year as our Treasurer, Jeanette Saint lost her battle with cancer – she will be missed. It appears that the executive team and all coordinators will return next season which will provide our region with some consistency, experience, knowledge and leadership needed to do some great things next season. These volunteers are critical to the success that we are going to have this upcoming season in our region. One new initiative that we implemented this season was a revamp of the Closest Association Matrix – special thanks to Chris Sharpe and the WORL executive for their hard work.

I would like to thank all of our Western Region association volunteers, the WRRRA executive and our Coordinators for their ongoing commitment to this great sport in our region.

Brian Breckles
Regional Director
Western Region Ringette Association



Eastern Region

Eastern Region Chair Report,

May 2018

Eastern Region Associations had some great successes at the Provincial A, and AA levels this past season collecting 6 Gold and 3 Silver medals at the Provincial Championships. Eastern had teams attend the CRC's and the ECRC's as Team Ontario, Nepean U16AA and GCRA U14AA won their respective Provincial events to become Team Ontario. Overall ERRA's competitive programs are running well creating multiple opportunities to play at the desired level of play. The Regional programs in Eastern Region are also providing multiple options to play at the B and C level with many opportunities for sanctioned play, including the National Capital Recreational Ringette League (NCRRL) Championship year end tournament. We have seen continued growth and increased skill in the 18+ divisions in our adult league/Association. GAARA now being the largest Association in the Province.

Registration numbers in Eastern Region have been increasing steadily over the past five years with modest increases in registrations for the Bunny / learn to skate programs (total 2709 players including 481 in the bunny program) a 10 year growth of +198 the largest in Ontario. Come Try events in Eastern have been quite successful with many associations co-hosting events.

There are significant challenges that impact our potential growth. While sport promotion and CTR's provide families with great information regarding our game the bigger challenges facing our associations is the ability to accommodate desired growth with suitable hours of ice time at a reasonable cost for families. The cost of city ice has grown quite steadily over the past few years, plus the only new ice surfaces that have been built are operated as private facilities with significantly higher priced rental fees, well over \$300+/hr. These factors contribute to higher association registration and team fees. These high fees may be preventing players from registering. Other questions posed recently were: Do boundaries impact our ability to attract new players? Are we promoting our sport within our communities enough? In order to help the Associations and Region address these questions a consulting firm was recently contracted to collect and provide registration and geographical data. This study mapped out where our current players are coming from, which association they are registered with and their proximity to arenas in the region. This data has identified untapped or underutilized communities within the Region. With this information Associations and the Region can focus on and ensure promotional activities include these areas. We expect this analysis to carry over the summer/fall.

In conjunction with this study, the first year of a two year trial program of offering new registrants in a small area in the South End of GCRA's territory the opportunity to register with any association has completed. After two years the project will be revisited to determine if this program resulted in any further growth in that community.

Sanctioned events this past season in ERRA included: Nepean, Metcalfe, Arnprior, Kingston, GCRA, WORA and the GAARA Silver Spoon tournaments. In many cases these events rely very heavily on local and Out of Province teams to fill their divisions. This is an ongoing geographical concern/ reality.

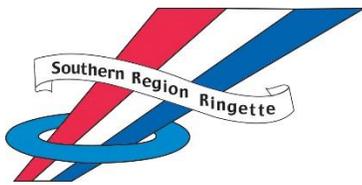
Eastern Region also hosted the AA Provincial event (hosted by GCRA) with 47 teams participating. Including seven teams in the inaugural 18+ Dave Bennett University Championship division. Thank you to GCRA and their organizing committee as well as the volunteers from our local associations who helped with this event.

City of Ottawa Ringette hosted Eastern Region's 2nd annual tournament style Playoff Championship working with our local minor league the National Capital Region Ringette League (NCRRL). The NCCRL Championship event hosted 87 Regional teams and provides Regional teams with a welcomed tournament atmosphere (including an opening ceremony).

Spring tryouts for U14 & U16 A/AA have been completed. The U19A/AA tryouts were hosted in the spring early summer (to be finalized by June 10th). The spring format works very well for U14 and U16. At U19 there are still challenges; mainly potential 3rd year players not being able to choose to try out for either of the two very popular University programs in Eastern Region since these teams host tryouts in the fall. The 3rd year U19 players are faced with maybe too many choices, U19, 18+ or 18+ University. A question often asked is the 3rd year still necessary?

In closing, our sport is run by a small Provincial staff and countless volunteers at the Association, Regional (ERRA) and Provincial / Committee (ORA) levels. The hours invested by our amazing volunteers into programs and events locally and across the Province are greatly appreciated and do not go unnoticed. Thank you to all who contribute so much to our sport.

Mike Lester
Regional Director
Eastern Region Ringette Association



Southern Region

SRRA Report – ORA AGM June 9, 2018

Southern continues to see positive growth and momentum from some SRRA associations; Barrie, Paris, Niagara Falls, Burlington.... offset by slippage in some larger associations like Cambridge. Have one association forced to release an entire team to play in another association.

Southern will be putting an extra focus on upcoming CTR events by setting up a CTR committee to help associations plan, organize and host CTR events going forward. This will be an initiative SRRA could use some funding help.

SRRA held eight ORA sanctioned tournaments this past season: St. Catharines, Mississauga, Cambridge, Burlington, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Paris and Niagara Falls.

Mississauga hosted a very successful World Championship event in December 2017.

Markham Ringette hosted a very successful Southern Region Championship.

Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Markham jointly hosted two very successful AAA Challenge Cups in December & February.

Border issues need addressing. They percolate all season and then escalate in the spring with Provincial team formation. Families have a growing expectation they should be able to play out of region when a closer association is across a regional boundary. The Southern / Western boundary established 35+ years ago may have worked then, it is not working now. A north / south boundary should not run on an east / west axis. The time has well past to address and fix this issue as families get ensnared and frustrated.

Southern continues discussions with Central & Western region to explore how to improve Provincial CORL league play.

Sport Development rules pertaining to late Sept 15th U12P team formation date have spilled down to negatively impact scheduling for Regional Team play.

Growing concern of Boys playing well below their ability level in Southern is creating significant issues.

Concussion data for 2017-18....concern the reporting & collection of concussion data has slipped. Would highlight a report showing ringette had the highest rate of Emergency Room visits for concussions of any sport.

Jim File
Regional Director
Southern Region Ringette Association



Central Region

Central Region Chair Annual Report
ORA AGM –June 2018

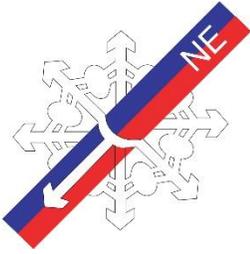
Central Region had a terrific season. While registration of players remained relatively flat year-over-year, the growth in programs such as coaching, officials and board membership ensures that the programs to support the membership are in place. To applaud some of the accomplishments this year:

- Six successfully run tournaments across the region, including the host of the 2018 Ontario Adult Challenge Cup,
- A wildcard entry into the Canadian Ringette Championships for the Central (Whitby) U16AA team,
- A centralized officials scheduling system to ensure all league games are accounted for,
- Numerous Come Try Ringette and Bring a Friend event to grow ringette throughout the region, including a collaborative approach between the Town of Gravenhurst and Muskoka Ringette to ensure the continued growth of the sport in cottage country.

Much of Central Regions efforts this past season was focused in internal programs to ensure the board moved from less of an administrative board to a customer focused board. Many Central Region programs are either past due, or non-existent, which resulted in too many tribunal panels and membership frustration. While some items were made current in 2017/18, there are still some significant programs that require activity going forward, including a defined Closest Association or Chosen Association policy and a targeted Sport Development program.

Central Region contains some of the highest growth populations and changing demographics in Ontario. As a result, the membership base is changing throughout the region that calls for a discussion on boundary issues on the west side of the region and huge opportunities in the east side of the region. Looking into 2018/19, Central Region is looking forward to partnering with the ORA on hosting the 2019 Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships, that will be hosted out of Oshawa.

Colin Deans
Regional Director
Central Region Ringette Association



Northeast Region

The Northeast Region held its annual AGM on Sunday May 28th in Sudbury. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting. Notable items are summarized below.

Regional successes

- Sudbury hosted 35 teams at their annual tournament in November. Appreciation was expressed for the strong support Barrie Ringette has provided for the Sudbury tournament.
- Timmins hosted 41 teams at the Northeast Regional Tournament in April. In addition to teams from northeast associations, we were pleased to see 2 Open teams from Thunder Bay travel to the competition.
- Timmins 19A competed as Team Ontario and won gold at the Eastern Regional Championships in Dartmouth. West Ferris U19A was the Jacks Division silver medalist and competed as a wildcard team at Eastern Regional Championships.
- Timmins U12 Provincial earned a gold medal in the Jacks Division at U12 Provincial Event. At the Provincial A Championships, Valley East 18+ A and Sudbury 16A earned bronze medals in the Jacks divisions and Timmins U14A earned a bronze in the McCarthy division.
- Northeast AAA competed in the Challenge Cups and the Ontario Winter Games this year. The team earned several victories and was consistently competitive throughout the season.
- Northeast formed regional U14AA and U16AA development teams again this year. The program remains successful in promoting competitive ringette and friendships throughout the NER ringette “community”. Both teams participated in 3 regional development camps and 2 tournaments at the AA level. Survey results consistently indicate the program is popular with both the athletes and their families.

Regional challenges

- Learn to skate remains our most successful recruiting tool with strong conversion of tryout candidates to Bunny level members. Retention of Bunnies remains a challenge with most association’s averaging approximately 50% retention as players graduate from Bunny level. Northeast associations are assembling a manual to compare best practices and serve as an operating manual for new volunteers.
- Sault Ste Marie reported that 75 of their 172 athletes (44%) in the 2017-18 season were bunnies. This is proof positive that the Sault association recruitment programs are delivering results.
- At the recent 2018 NER AGM, 4 of 7 associations commented that their successes in bunny recruitment are putting pressure on their ice availability.
- Tournament support from teams outside the Northeast remains extremely limited despite our teams’ loyal support of numerous tournaments throughout the province. We look forward to G&T’s increased effort to encourage teams to reciprocate this support.

As the membership base is redeveloped, Northeast associations are challenged by low participation in certain ages and divisions. This significantly impacts the formation of equitable teams for B and C level play at tournaments – in and out of our region. A working group has been created to review and formalize policies to govern this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Ablett
Regional Director,
Northeast Region

Program Chairs Reports

Coaching Development

“Change” has to be the constant word for the past couple of years and will be happening going forward into the new season in the Fall of 2018.

The National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) and Ringette Canada have implemented “changes” in the way some courses are to be taught and we have had to increase the number of Coach Developers across the province and train them to deliver high-quality courses for all coaches to take on their way to certification.

There has been a number of new courses added to the list that coaches now have to take and this has “changed” the cost structure for coaches across the province. However, there are grants available, which are underused, for coaches to get financial help, or for Associations to promote to help their coaches cover the costs. Our committee has structured our budget to make sure that all coaches across the province pay about the same amount for the courses offered.

Ontario Ringette has added a mandatory course, Making Head Way, to promote head injury awareness, that all coaches and trainers must take, and we have also mandated that there is a bench staff with Standard First Aid, in any role, on the bench and with the team at all times. Starting in the 2020 season, this must be the trainer and this will “change” the makeup of the people on the bench going forward.

This fall, we have “changed” the date for coaches/trainers/managers to be “Trained” to November 1st, to ensure our athletes are being coached by qualified and informed coaches. We know there will be some growing pains in this “change” however we expect coaches to complete training by deadlines, we will schedule emergency courses in November, if needed. We are also “changing” the bench staff, bench staffs will be required to have a qualified female assistant coach or head coach on every bench starting with U12 and U14 in the 2019 season. To assist in this process, we encourage associations to reach out to current players and past players to get them involved in becoming coaches.

Gerald Lamoureux,
Chair of Coaching Development.

Membership Services

There was a total of 9503 Ringette players registered in Ontario in 2017-18. This a gain of 120 players or 1.3% over 2016-17. After 3 years of essentially no growth, it's refreshing to see even modest growth in our numbers. On the other hand, the growth that we do have is uneven with some regions growing at a higher rate and others declining slightly. We also still have some ground to make up to reach the enrollment levels seen in the late 2000's and early 2010's. Still, this is at least a good start which hopefully we can continue to build on.

Work on the Membership Management System project has continued throughout the season. The big challenge this past year was on the vendor front. Vendor response to our requirements was limited and one of the vendors that we did pursue turned out to have too many limitations in its solution. We are currently working with another Canadian based vendor and we believe we have a viable solution. Our goal remains to migrate to this solution for the 2018-19 season although admittedly, this is aggressive. A final decision on both this vendor and the timeframe is expected in the next few weeks.

There are, of course, areas which require our continued attention. Key is attracting new players to our game, particularly in the crucial younger and Bunny age groups. We also need to focus on retaining our existing players and improving our understanding of why some leave. Finally, we need remember the importance of recognition of our fellow volunteers, many of whom go above and beyond the call.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Regional Membership Coordinators, for their assistance, hard work and patience this year. Its volunteers like you, who love this sport and make it all worthwhile.

Fred Black
Chair, Membership Services.

Officiating Development

Canadian Ringette Championships

- 2 Ontario supervisors attended
- 12 of the 31 officials were from Ontario
- 9 of the 12 Ontario officials were involved in a medal game

Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships

- 4 officials represented Ontario
- All 4 officials received a gold medal game!

AAA Development Forum

- Feedback was incredibly positive and experience was well-received by all who attended
- We look to run this forum again in conjunction with AAA events in the coming years

Provincial Events

- Major issues with parents and coaches at the U12 Event – how can we fix this moving forward? These are our most vulnerable referees and they take the most abuse
- AA Provincials ran more smoothly this year but the number of officials needed is a growing concern
- 41 officials declined the invite to A Provincials – we had major issues getting enough qualified individual to this event
- There is not enough demand throughout the year (games and tournaments) to allow for the number of people needed at Provincials
- Officiating has sent a number of requests to VP Finance and G & T committee regarding needs at Provincials, hopefully to encourage more officials to say “yes” to attending. Some of the requests include:
 - Budget for flights for officials traveling a distance
 - Increased daily per diem
 - More supervisors for long days
 - Software to help complete schedules quicker
 - Food provided by host or ORA at arenas in between games

POD

- The Provincial Officiating Development program is still an excellent way to identify new talent and allow them to develop at a faster pace
- Becky Jamieson (Murray) will continue to look after this program next season

Evaluators

- Another successful year of evaluations and upgrades. We were able to send an off-ice evaluator to almost every tournament

Amy Murray
Chair, Officiating Development

Adult Development

A huge thank you, to all the coordinators, for the great season. There were far fewer issues this season compared to last year. You have all worked hard and have made my position as Chair easier. I truly cannot thank you enough. It's been a pleasure working with each and every one of you and I hope to see everyone back for the 2018-19 season.

This year we welcomed 2 new coordinators to the committee, Janet int'Veldt representing Central region and Sarah Jerrard representing Northwest region. In all my years being part of the committee it was great to finally have Northwest represented.

As chair, I approved 22 player substitutions (mostly for OAIC) of which 2 involved a 3rd year U19 player. As a committee we approved over 160 player/goalie substitutes over the season. There were 11 Composite teams and several ICF requests for players after the January 8th deadline approved by the committee.

The main focus of the Adult Program for the 2017-18 season was to promote the Adult Come Try Ringette pilot program and the available funding. The pilot was first introduced in 2016-17 but it was too late in the season to take advantage of it. This season we had 6 Adult Come Try Ringette events: 3 in NE, 1 in NW, 1 in Western and 1 in Eastern. The event in Valley East was very successful with 83% of the participants recruited for the playing season. The NW event in Thunder Bay was not well attended but 80% of the participants joined. The event held in Eastern at the Silverspoon adult ringette tournament in March was very well attended with approximately 30 participants. A survey was sent out afterwards and the majority of the participants requested information on how to register for the 2018-19 season. Areas for improvement have been identified and the Adult CTR Guide will be modified over the summer to reflect these changes (including adding a formal report back on the event in addition to submitting the invoices).

The 2018 Ontario Adult Invitational Cup (OAIC) was hosted once again by Oshawa Ringette Association. The tournament went well with only minimal issues: confusion with regionals in Southern and Western had some teams withdrawing after acceptance, being held over Easter weekend impacted the number of teams that applied, issue with 1 coach who was publicly vocal with his complaints about scheduling etc leading up to the event. Despite these issues, the teams present had a great time and Oshawa Ringette was able to make a slight profit proving that the event can make money.

Major plans for the 2018-19 season include developing a tracking method for player affiliation, improving the adult TRF adjustment tracking for the BB level and lower, developing guides for bench staff, independent players and Adult Committee members and looking at improved ways to market/promote adult ringette.

I wish everyone all the best for the summer. I do hope to be back as chair for the 2018-2020 term.

Yours in Ringette

Nanci LaRoche
Chair, Adult Development

Games and Tournaments

G&T had another busy year with many tournaments, Provincial Events and Regionals or Year End Championships. New this year was the Dave Bennett Challenge Cup for the University teams. This event was hosted at the AA Provincials and we look forward to the growth of this event.

One of the commitments of this committee is to strive towards consistency and fairness for athletes. To that end there have been concerns raised at all levels of play regarding the substitutions and that despite the best efforts of the committee, teams are frequently made stronger through the use of substitutes at tournaments. For the upcoming season, changes have been made to the substitution rules to acknowledge that while substitutes are sometimes necessary, they need to be fairer. Details will be available in the Ringette Flash to be released before the end of the month.

The tournament assignment process remains popular with coaches and tournament hosts as it confirms to Provincial teams early in the season which tournaments they will be attending and allows tournament hosts to advertise for and accept out of province teams and Regional level teams earlier, reducing much of the last minute stress from the registration portion of running a tournament. There has been an increasing number of requests to move the assignment process earlier in the summer by the leagues. The August date is too late for many of them to schedule their games. To try to make this process easier for the Leagues, G&T will be holding their meeting to assign tournaments at the end of July as opposed to the middle of August.

Reseeding remains an area of concern – frequent questions include which teams should be reseeded, which teams that weren't should have been, how does G&T make these decisions, why doesn't G&T make better decisions? This is a difficult process and it is hoped that with Regions, Leagues and Regional G&T Coordinators working together on the original seeding of teams that there will be fewer instances of mid-season reseeding.

Thanks to the many coaches who took the time to respond to the questionnaire regarding ranking of provincial teams at the A level. As the result of the overwhelming support for the proposal put forward, there will be a modification for round robin games for the upcoming season – details will be available in the Ringette Flash.

Planning is well under way for 2018/19 tournaments and Provincial Events. The upcoming season should be a great one.

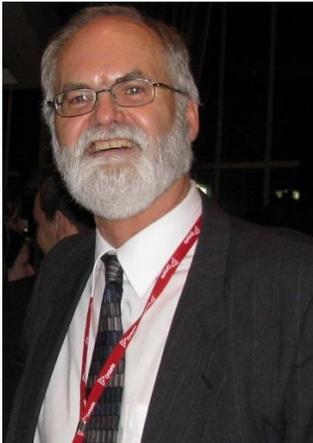
Many thanks to all of the volunteers who put in endless hours of work to provide the ringette athletes with tournaments where they not only get an opportunity to play the sport they love, but to meet new people and strengthen existing friendships that will last a life time!

Hoping that everyone has a wonderful summer and I look forward to working with you in the upcoming season.

Kathy Noxon
Chair, Games and Tournaments

Staff Reports

Executive Director



I knew the time was coming and it has finally arrived...retirement. It is time to say goodbye.

It has been a rewarding twenty years that I have had the honour and privilege of being employed by the Ontario Ringette Association, two years as the Technical Director and the rest as the Executive Director. I have met many people and some of these relationships have continued outside the ringette world.

At the Board level, I have worked with nine different presidents; JoAnn Benedet, Jackie Lajeunesse, Jane Casson, Terry Watters, Ellorie Hanson, Harry Hirsimaki, Keith Kaiser, Kim Noxon, John Voss, and many members who were on the Board. I have also had the privilege of serving numerous

Standing Committee Chairs and their members.

Your Board of Directors has known for some time that the existing structure of the organization needed to be revised and updated to better serve the ringette community. However, there was never the will to take the necessary and sometimes painful steps to start this procedure.

With my retirement comes the opportunity to start this process of revitalizing and invigorating the ringette community and planning future growth and initiatives. I will miss the challenges and work that comes with this new direction and applaud the Board of Directors for recognizing the need for change and the courage for taking the necessary steps.

Roles and responsibilities will change, do your part by supporting the Board and the new Executive Director, Pamela Julian as they embark on this important re-structuring of the ORA.

Over the past few years, I and others, have noticed that at the local, regional and provincial levels various rules, policies and procedures have been interpreted, manipulated and applied to the benefit of some while not following the spirit in which they were written. This inconsistent application undermines the integrity of the organization and the fairness that we strived to have.

This will be my last time saying this: Remember; if you do not like the rules, policies and procedures, do not ignore them, change them.

Yours in Ringette and thank you.

Mike C. Beaton
Executive Director Retired

2018 Championship Results



U12 PROVINCIAL EVENT

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Sportsmanship
U12 Jacks	Timmins	Newmarket	Sault Ste. Marie	Newmarket
U12 McCarthy	Nepean-G	Guelph	City of Ottawa-B	West Ferris
U12 Lajeunesse	City of Ottawa-L	Nepean-D	Chatham	Nepean
U12 Brown	Richmond Hill	West Ottawa-F	Ajax	West Ottawa-F
U12 Gough	Gloucester Cumberland-B	Oshawa	Markham	London



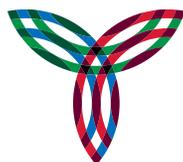
PROVINCIAL "AA"

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Sportsmanship
U14 Jacks	Gloucester Cumberland	Waterloo	Central Whitby	West Ottawa
U16 Jacks	Nepean	Mississauga	Central Whitby	London
U19 Jacks	Guelph	Waterloo	Mississauga	Mississauga
18+ Jacks	Toronto	Waterloo-D	Waterloo-G	Toronto
18+ University	Carleton	Ottawa	Guelph	Brock



PROVINCIAL "A"

Division	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Sportsmanship
U14 McCarthy	Metcalfe	Elora Fergus	Timmins	Elora Fergus
U14 Lajeunesse	West Ottawa	Nepean	Markham	Mississauga
U14 Jacks	Gloucester Cumberland	Kitchener	Waterloo	Burlington
U16 McCarthy	Ajax	Oshawa	London	Richmond Hill
U16 Jacks	Waterloo	Forest	Sudbury	Forest
U19 McCarthy	Richmond Hill	West Ottawa	Cambridge	Gloucester Cumberland
U19 Jacks	Timmins	West Ferris	Forest	West Ferris
18+ Jacks	Mississauga	Valley East	Ajax	Kingston



Orillia
2018

Ontario
Winter Games

Jeux d'hiver
de l'Ontario

March 1-4, 2018

Ontario Winter Games

Gold	Silver	Bronze
Eastern	Western	United



**2018 Eastern Canadian Championships
Hosted by Nova Scotia**

<u>Level</u>	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Silver</u>
U14 AA	New Brunswick 2	Waterloo
U16 A	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia
U19 A	Ontario (Timmins)	Nova Scotia
18+	Toronto Adult	Nova Scotia

U14AA Nepean 5th U16A Waterloo, 4th U19A West Ferris, 4th



**Ontario Results at the 2018 Canadian Ringette Championships
Hosted by Winnipeg, Manitoba**

<u>U16</u>		<u>U19</u>		<u>NRL</u>	
Bronze	Nepean	4th	Waterloo	Bronze	Cambridge
13th	Mississauga	5th	Guelph	5 th	Richmond Hill
17th	Central (Whitby)	13th	Mississauga		

ONTARIO RINGETTE ASSOCIATION PROVINCIAL SPONSORS

The Ontario Ringette Association acknowledges the support of our corporate partners.

