



The Guelph Ringette Association

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday April 30th, 2019 – 7pm

Location: Lion's Lair, West End Rec Centre

1. Confirm attendance/proxy review/quorum
2. Review and Approval of 2018 AGM minutes
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Other Executive Reports:
 - Equipment
 - Open/Adult Play
 - Registration
 - Special Events
 - Officiating
 - Fundraising/Sponsorship
 - Tournament
 - Communication
 - Coach and Player Development
 - Ice Scheduling
6. Awards of Recognition
7. New Business/Discussion/Questions from Members
8. Nominations for 2019 Executive Committee and Election of Officers
 - a) Submitted Nominations
 - b) Nominations from Floor
 - c) Election of 2019 Directors
9. Dissolution of Outgoing Directors
10. Installation of 2019 Executive Directors
11. Draw for 2- half off registrations
12. Adjournment



2017 - 2018 Annual General Meeting
April 23rd, 2018 (Start Time: 7:04 pm)

1. Confirmation of quorum from attendance

2. Review of 2017 - 2018 Annual General Meeting minutes

Motion to accept as amended - Jordan Kovats; Seconded by - Deby Smith
All in favour.

3. 2017 - 2018 President's Report (Trish Taylor)

Social Media Success

- Social media accounts have had great success in terms of outreach and inclusion!

Team Ontario

- Congratulations to U19AA winning provincial championships!

4. Budget Review (Jen Mezenberg)

Motion to accept - Leanne Claerbout; Seconded by - Meghan Purdie
All in favour.

5. Director Highlights

6. Volunteer Awards

7. New Business

- a. Presentation on GRA Piloting new U7 Half Ice program next season

8. Board Elections:

Outgoing positions:

- Secretary
- Director of Open Play
- President
- Vice President
- Director of Registration
- Director of Coach and Player Development

Nominations: Jared Pulleyblank, Tara Lazzari, Sarah Kirby, Lisa Leclerc

No further nominations from the floor

Members of Executive willing to stand: Tricia Taylor, Leanne Claerbout, Meghan Purdie

6 positions open; 7 nominations

Secret vote: Lisa Leclerc, Tara Lazzari, Jared Pulleyblank, Tricia Taylor, Leanne Claerbout, and Meghan Purdie

9. Dissolution of 2017 - 2018 Board of Directors

10. Installation of 2018 - 2019 Board of Directors

11. Draw for free registration - Jordan Kovats

Motion to adjourn: Motion by Jenn Mezenberg; Seconded by Marten Dykstra

Time - 8:48 pm



President's Report

This past year has been another successful season of Ringette for our association. It is great to see all the support from all our volunteers across the association – Board members, Coaches, Trainers, Managers, on-ice helpers, shot clock operators/score keepers – Thank you all for your time and dedication.

We had a very eventful season of activities both on and off the ice. Ringette started early with a Summer program on Sunday nights and a successful 3on3 tournament in August, then ended off with our Regional Banquet in April. Our Come Try Ringette and Bring a Friend promotions were very successful this season too helping increase registration again at our younger ages. The biggest draw of new players still comes from referrals and we continue to offer referral incentives. We continued to do lots of promotion across all sources of social media this season. Our ultimate goal is to be able to offer teams at all age levels at both the regional and provincial levels of play.

This season GRA hosted 13 Teams in total, in addition to our Learn to Skate program on Saturday mornings and a new Adult Shinny program on Friday nights. We congratulate all our teams and players for their successes over the season in league games, tournaments and year end events. This year we also had six Guelph players participating in Team Ontario in 3 Challenge Cups and the Canada Winter Games. The team fought hard to take home a Silver medal.

League champions for U9, U10, U14A, U19A and U19AA

Lots of success at the Year End tournaments in Waterloo, West Ferris, Guelph and Tillsonburg too:

- 3 Gold Medals (U9, U14R and U19AA) - including National Champion U19AA!
- 3 Silver Medals (U12R, U14A, U19A)
- 1 Bronze Medal (U10)

We were also pleased to again have had great collaboration with our neighbouring associations welcoming new players to our provincial teams. Many Guelph players also played for other associations this season too – for division levels where Guelph didn't host a team.

Connections and communication with all our members was a focus this season as we introduced a new Parent's Guide and Manager's Guide to help members understand all the ins and outs of ringette. Mid-season and year end surveys were used to seek feedback on coaches and programs as well.

GRA had the opportunity of hosting the U12Provincial Year End Event. This was our first time hosting a Provincial event. We got lots of great feedback, especially for our Opening ceremonies video (thank you Lisa Leclerc!). The weekend didn't go without its challenges – ice issues at Victoria required some quick action, rescheduling and sourcing alternate arenas. Jordan Kovats did an amazing job working through this with the City, and G&T. Thanks to all the volunteers who stepped up to support this extra event.

As we move into next season – we will continue to rely on volunteers to support the organization. We are looking for additional committee support in communication/marketing, fundraising/sponsorship and special events.

Again would like to thank all the volunteers who have supported GRA over the past year. Special mention to all the older players who took the time to give back and helped out with LTS, U7 programs as well as the younger aged teams. It is great inspiration for the younger players to learn from them. Thanks to those executives that are stepping down now. It is because of everyone's efforts that this is a great organization that I have been proud to represent.

Tricia Taylor
President



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Director's Reports

EQUIPMENT

Director: Darryl Metzloff

All needed equipment from the cage was provided to each team. They received a supply of rings, pylons, jerseys, basic first aid kits, goalie equipment, etc.

Additional jerseys were required to be ordered this season to match up some odd ones. Starting to get rid of old jerseys. Adult Shinny players were provided jerseys and some were sold at the GRA tournament. Keeping some sets for tryouts but hoping to find options to get rid of the rest to free up much needed space in the storage cage. Big equipment investment was for ice divider set for the piloting of U7 half-ice program. Boards are stored on a cart and kept in back corner of West End Rink 2. Parents/coaches have mastered the set-up and take down very effectively.

OPEN PLAY

Director: Meghan Purdie

Open Team - B+ level that played in the SWIRL league. Adult ringette is growing, however there is more interest in forming tournament teams. Open program for GRA is being evaluated for next season.

GRA did host an Adult Come Try Ringette Event in September and started an Adult Shinny program on Friday nights. Program was run with a variety of skill levels - running separate "A" and "B" lines. The 20skaters app was used to managed subs, who paid per ice time. Plans are to continue the program next season too.

REGISTRATION

Director: Jared Pulleyblank

For the 2018/2019 season, we had 220 players register with the Guelph Ringette association for Learn-to-Skate through to Adult Shinny. This past season we hosted 16 teams or levels, with two U7 and U8 teams, and one team for each of Learn-To-Skate, U9, U10, U12 Regional, U12 Provincial, U14 Regional, U14A, U16AA, U19A, U19AA and 18+ levels. New this year was our Adult Shinny league which had 22 full time players which was a big success thanks to Julia Whale who spearheaded this initiative.

We had 39 new-to-ringette skaters not including our Adult Shinny. Our Bring-A-Friend referral bonus brought in 13 of those new players. We have expanded our Bring-A-Friend referral bonus for the upcoming season to include the Learn-to-Skate level as well.

Our New-to-Ringette discount is continuing for the upcoming season, with \$100 off of registration fees for any U8 to U19 aged player that is new to our sport. New this year, if anyone at the U7 age signs up at one of our Come-Try-Ringette/Bring-A-Friend events, they get \$50 off their registration fees.

Our last Come-Try-Ringette/Bring-A-Friend events held in March brought out over 35 skaters. We need your help to keep this great sport growing. Earn yourself a referral bonus or two (or more!) and refer some new players. Our association grows with your word of mouth and your efforts. Thank you all for sharing this sport with your friends and families. We will be having some Come-Try-Ringette and Come-Try-Goalie in September. Please bring a friend or two to try the fastest game on ice!

Registration for the 2019/2020 season is now open. Please go to the Guelph Ringette website and register your players now to get the early bird discount which ends June 30th. I look forward to seeing you all around the rink!



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Director: Marten Dykstra

Events from the last season:

- 3on3 Tournament - Sunday August 20st – planning to run again this summer – August 18th
- Photo Night – October 17th
- Christmas Family Skate – December 13th
- Regional Year End Banquet – April 2nd

OFFICIATING

Director: John Mezenberg

This past season was another successful year for GRA officials. The association had two new officials complete their Level 1 certification. The association had two officials complete their Level 2/3 clinic and are working on moving up in rank. In all, we had 55 officials registered from Guelph for this season.

In total, the GRA hosted 159 league and exhibition games this season. The GRA again worked in conjunction with the Elora Fergus Ringette Association to schedule referees for both associations. This worked very well with officials from both associations having the opportunities to referee in both centres while ensuring capable and appropriate officials were on all games. This cooperation led to an additional 65 games in Elora and Fergus that many of our officials assisted with.

We had a very strong showing by Guelph officials in this year's Championship events. We had two of our officials take part in the U12P Provincial Event in Guelph, two of our officials take part in the Provincial Championships in North Bay and two of our officials take part in the Provincial Championships in Waterloo. We also had one of our officials take part in the Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships in Oshawa. Many of our officials took part in the Western Region Regionals Event in Tillsonburg as well.

The University of Guelph continues to be a good source of officials for our association with young referees attending school in Guelph and looking to continue their officiating development here.

The Guelph Ringette Association's officiating program continues to be strong and we hope to continue this for many more years to come. If anyone is interested in becoming an official please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss.

FUNDRAISING/SPONSORSHIP

Director: Jennifer Hundleby-Anthony

SPONSORSHIP

Finding sponsors for GRA was a challenge this year. Many organizations are re-thinking their support of sport and teams and changing the way they provide that support. Straight cash donations were difficult to access and many sponsors prefer to deal directly with a team as opposed to indirectly support them through the organization (GRA). This year we had direct team sponsorships, one or two GRA sponsorships and some in-kind sponsorship. A few former sponsors did not donate this year and 5 new sponsors were recruited.



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The team sponsors for our Regional Program are:

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| LTS: | Timbits (Tim Hortons) |
| U7: | Timbits (Tim Hortons) |
| U8L: | Make it Sew (in-kind) |
| U8M: | Ontario Pride Eggs (Bronze) |
| U9: | Prime Care Pharmacy (Bronze) |
| U10: | Reid Heritage Homes (Bronze) |
| U12R : | Montana's Smokehouse Grill (in-kind) |
| U14R : | Bonduelle (Silver) |
| OPEN: | Speedvale Auto Detailing |

Provincial teams had direct sponsorships.

Other honourable mentions are Play it Again Sports, Hometown Sports, the Boathouse, and G. Cratt (Private donation). Special thanks goes out to Dwayne Highton who alone brought in three new GRA Sponsors for a total of \$1000.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising efforts this year were a blend of the standard events done in previous years and a couple of experimental events.

1. **Raffle:** The GRA Raffle was executed the same way as in previous years with all members submitting their fundraising fees at the beginning of the year and 15 prizes were drawn for happy winners.
2. **HypnOlсен:** In previous years GRA has held a Yuk Yuks event, however this year the venue was double booked and GRA sought out a different event and venue. We held a comedy hypnosis event that was great fun for those who attended. Unfortunately, the event was only at 50% capacity and therefore although we broke even, little fundraising was realized from the event.
3. **Community Night:** This year we experimented by holding an in-kind community night at Montana's Smokehouse. Montana's offered to give GRA **25% of the sales difference** for the day from last year to this year. Two full teams and a few smaller groups went to the restaurant that day to support the event. The only cost to GRA for this event was time for promotion. This event was a success and it is recommended to do it again. GRA netted just under \$250 for the event.

Overall 2018-19 was a challenging but moderate year for sponsorship and fundraising at GRA. The yearly GRA Raffle brought in the most fundraising and will continue next year. The GRA Board has decided not to pursue an evening fundraising events in future as the work to sell tickets is difficult, with little natural uptake from members and the return is not of significant value. Community nights are less of a workload and a preference for restaurants as they are a win/win in-kind partnership. It is recommended that GRA pursue more of these next year.



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GUELPH TOURNAMENT 2019

Director: Chris Billing

This season the GRA held the 39th Annual Guelph Ringette Tournament. The tournament attracted a total of 77 teams and over 1000 athletes from across Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba and Nova Scotia. Teams competed in division from U10 to 18+ University. The tournament also included a Bunnyfest for the U8's and a show-case of the U7 half-ice program with 2 games over the weekend too. Guelph teams had some great success with the U19AA, U14A, and U10 winning medals. The U19A's and U12P's also battled hard in the semi-finals.

Some logistics highlights:

- Continued to host vendors in the main hallway of the WERC and Victoria arena – including helping Team Ontario players fundraise as they headed to the Canada Winter Games
- We ran Raffle Table and Silent Auction with donations from our membership and tournament supporters and held 2- 50/50 draws.
- Volunteer Hours were allocated to each team based on players again, with using some paid shot clock operator positions as well

Thanks to the whole membership and executive for their support and hard work to make our tournament such a success this year.

COMMUNICATION

Director: Lisa Leclerc

We had an exciting year with respect to GRA's communication and marketing initiatives! In 2018-19 we modernized and diversified the way in which we promoted our sport and launched 2 significant, successful marketing campaigns in August 2018. These campaigns included city bus advertising and local radio advertisements promoting ringette in Guelph. Our "Spot the Bus" campaign, originally to be a 4 week promotional campaign (4 bus ads circulating around changing bus routes across Guelph for 4 weeks), turned into a 15 week campaign that saw our ads reach upwards of 10 million ad impressions across Guelph! The City of Guelph graciously left our ads up until they had new advertising to replace our ads which was a huge win for GRA. We plan to run the campaign again this summer in coordination with updated radio advertisements on Magic 106.1.

Our social media presence (website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) continues to be a leader in the promotion of Ringette in Guelph, Ontario and in Canada. Since the fall of 2017 it has been our goal to set the bar with respect to quality ringette posts and content and we continue to receive amazing feedback organizations across Canada on our social media presence and content. We continue to sit behind only Ringette Canada and the Ontario Ringette Association in popularity on Facebook and other social media sites. We have also begun to establish partnerships with other sports organizations in Guelph to cross-promote our programs. All of these initiatives, in combination with our traditional grass roots marketing efforts (Come Try Ringette invitations, flyers, posters, posting to community event calendars, etc.), has resulted in the GRA hosting our most successful Come Try Ringette events to date this spring! We are starting to see the work pay off in the growth in the numbers in our sport in Guelph and are very pleased and excited for the future of GRA's ringette programs.

Aside from our work with the GRA directly, we also supported the U12 Provincial Event hosted by the GRA including the design of the event logo, the development and management of the event's online media content and created the video shown at the event's Opening Ceremonies!



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Our top priorities in 2019-20 will be to:

- Grow our sport in Guelph through innovative advertising and marketing initiatives;
- Provide quality information products to our GRA members and broader ringette community; and
- Review our current website and systems for functionality and efficiency.

To be successful in tackling these priorities, we are looking to grow our Communications Committee. If you have interest in supporting this work, please contact Lisa Leclerc our Director of Communications.

COACH AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Director: Tara Lazzari

Members: Trish, Taylor, Leanne Claerbout, Todd Claerbout, John Mezenberg, Jordan Kovats, Lisa Leclerc, Nicole Murdock, Steph Lederman, Tania Pettitt and our two newest members Sarah Pezzano and Keyshia Martin

Teams:

Regional: U7, U8M, U8L, U9, U10, U12, U14, OPEN *Provincial:* U12PP, U14A, U16AA, U19A, U19AA

Thank you to all the committee for your continued role in helping to develop our coaches and players and for being such dedicated committee members. You made my role as the Director a much easier one knowing I had a supportive team behind me. In the next season, I would like to add another two new committee members so if anyone is interested, please let me know.

As we did in the previous season we again ran a few player skills clinics as well as goalie clinics throughout the season that were run by our older provincial players and were very well attended by our younger players. We decided this season to run a one-day camp over the Christmas break. Again, this was run by our older players and all that attended enjoyed the day. We will be looking to run something similar again this coming season.

Our 2018/19 season saw us pilot the new U7 half ice program. Thank you to Tania Pettitt and Nicole Murdock for all your hard work on this and making it a success not only for GRA but for Western Region and Ringette Ontario.

For this past season we moved all our power skating to Tuesday nights and welcomed our new power skating instructor Craig Teeple. This was a positive switch for GRA and allowed all teams to receive power skating sessions more consistently than in past years. You could see all the players hard work under Craig paying off on the ice during our games. We will continue to run our power skating as we did this past year.

Last summer we ran a Sunday night shinny and we have just finalized dates and times for this upcoming season to run a similar program. Watch social media over the next few weeks to learn how to register.

John Mezenberg began a "Coaches Corner" once a month that gave coaches and managers the opportunity to mingle with other coaches and managers and let them "pick each other's brains" about any ringette related issues, questions or concerns. With the success of this seasons "Coaches Corners" we plan to run them again next season.

Exciting news for next season for the Provincial teams: proposal is being put forward to form a new A and AA league called Great Lakes Ringette League (G.L.R.L) and it will include teams from Western, Southern and Central Region. By creating this new league, it will give the provincial teams greater exposure to play more games against different opponents. AA teams will play in one division with a balanced schedule (similar to what they do in current WORL). A teams will play in an East and West division with minimal crossovers and an unbalanced schedule. U12P will continue to play in their respective regions (i.e. Guelph will continue to play against Western Region teams only).



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ICE SCHEDULING

Director: Jordan Kovats

This past season saw 12 teams with game and practice schedules, along with a learn to Skate program, one Open team, and introducing a new program in Adult Shinny.

Shinny assumed the Friday night ice time to help make up for the loss of an Open team from the year before. We also saw a new ice time introduced Wednesday at 5pm at Centennial. GRA now has 25 hrs of weekly ice in between the City and U of G. U7 and U8 received approximately 60 ice counts, where one ice count counts as a half ice practice. 2 Ice counts is a full ice practice or home game. The other Youth teams saw a base ice count of 70, Rep teams received an extra 14 ice counts due to the payment of rep fees which goes directly to extra ice. However most teams, regional and rep received additional counts as the allotted ice does not divide equally among the teams. Adult Shinny saw 19 ice times. The program will continue next season.

The city has changed their policy in the last couple of weeks, and in order to return ice at no charge, we must now give 30 days notice as opposed to 15 days previously. This is going to change the way schedules will be rolled out, It will be difficult to return ice during September, October and January as schedules are introduced at that time, and not always returned with sufficient notice. As a result, teams should expect two ice times per day some Saturday's during these periods as there will not be enough notice to return the ice. It is not perfect, but it is beyond our control, and we will still discuss options with the city. The University continues to maintain a 7 day return policy, however the cost s almost double that of city ice.

Ice has also been acquired for Tryouts, Summer shinny, 3 on 3 tournament, and the Guelph tournament. Not included are requests from teams to purchase additional ice outside of what the association holds.

We continue to pursue trades with other associations to spread out our ice allotment so a more balanced practice schedule can be achieved. I don't expect significant changes until the South end is constructed, hopefully by the 21-22 Season. Currently, 75% of our ice time fall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

U12P EVENT: Committee Chair: Jordan Kovats

Thanks to the executive for supporting the decision to host this event. Also, to the many volunteers that put in time to plan and volunteer their time at the event from March 21-24.

30 teams from all over Ontario attended. Opening ceremonies were held at the U of G gymnasium, with the afternoon dance at the Italian Canadian Club.

An ice failure at Victoria Rd Friday morning caused the tournament to relocate to Exhibition and U of G for the balance of Friday and Saturday. Thanks to the City, U of G, and the other minor associations in being flexible to either give up ice, or adjust ice time at short notice to allow the tournament to continue flawlessly. We worked closely with Ringette Ontario, G&T, Officiating, and Score2stats. Comments were positive throughout the weekend with all of the challenges, and a follow up survey sent by RO, also were extremely positive. Hopefully we can continue to host such events in the future.

Thanks to all who helped in any way to make this a success.