

**Tara Ross** (President Nominee)

I've been involved with Kitchener Ringette for over 40 years. I've done everything, from playing to timekeeping and referring being a board member, helping to host Provincials and coaching. I've seen KRA being a large centre through to the challenges of the growth of female hockey. This past season I was head coach of our U14A team.

I'm looking for your support for President. I'm currently VP for the Board of Directors of the John Howard Society of Waterloo Wellington and have a year long leadership program focused on non-profit leadership.

Yes, I'm an outsider to the current board, but my passion for ringette, and my various types of experience make me a strong and capable candidate for this role.

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**Katherine Akins** (Marketing Director Nominee)

Over the past six years, my family and I have been actively involved with Kitchener Ringette, where I've served in roles such as team manager, fundraising, and, most recently, as the key volunteer for social media.

I have also operated a small business that relied heavily on social media marketing, which has given me valuable experience in creating effective digital strategies. In addition, I've served on two school councils including as chair and assisted in fundraising initiatives such as apparel sales and community events.

With my experience in social media, fundraising, and community engagement, I am confident I can help lead KRA's marketing efforts and drive continued growth.

Peter Johnson  
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March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To the Board of Directors, Kitchener Ringette Association,

I would like to submit my candidacy for a 2-year term (2025-2027) as President of the Kitchener Ringette Association (KRA). I believe that the mandate of KRA should be firmly focused on building the sport, so that we can provide an opportunity for each player to play on a team at the appropriate age and skill level. To accomplish this, our association should support players to improve their skills, develop important social skills, and grow meaningful friendships through sport. Additionally, KRA should continue to develop a strong volunteer base, including recruiting and training coaches, bench staff, referees, and board volunteers. Each of these roles contribute in significant ways to the long-term sustainability of the sport and our association.

I have volunteered as a board member with KRA for the past three seasons, holding the Marketing portfolio, as well as filling some Communications roles. I have also volunteered as an assistant coach with both Waterloo Ringette Association (1 year), and KRA (3 years), at the U12B, U14B, and U16B levels. I am an active participant in board discussions and decisions, and have taken on several additional duties, including co-organizing Adult Shinny, and the High School Tournament. I am very passionate about ringette and am incredibly grateful for the role that ringette has played in lives of my two players and our family. When we moved to KRA, I found a warm and welcoming ringette family and have loved being a part of this association ever since. I have players who are 'home' to both Waterloo and Kitchener, and see this as a unique position, giving me insight into how each association works, and their different strategies for achieving common goals. I truly believe that we are all united in our shared passion for growing the sport of ringette and providing a positive experience for players. Some key initiatives that I see over the next few years include:

- Continued investment in recruiting efforts to grow the sport at the youngest ages, and provide entry points for older players
- Providing specialized instruction, such as power skating, skills, and goalie clinics for all players
- Recruiting and training coaches so they feel empowered to lead their teams
- Working closely with our neighbouring associations to create shared or combined teams, not just at the rep levels, but at all levels where it allows us to ice a team
- Improving communication and transparency between the board and KRA families, particularly around understanding the challenges and considerations around team formation.

The next few years of ringette will be marked by continued change. With the dissolution of regional associations, Ringette Ontario is taking an increasing role in supporting and directing individual associations. As part of this, there will likely be top-down changes to how AA/A rep teams are formed, with according impact on regional B/C programs. This comes on top of the usual challenges we face, including recruiting coaches, making most effective use of our allocated ice time, and of course, bringing new players and families into the sport. KRA is in an excellent position to navigate these changes, with stable registration numbers, an excellent financial picture, a small cohort of committed volunteers, and a positive relationship with our ice team at the City of Kitchener. I deeply appreciate the efforts of past presidents and board members who have all worked very hard to steward KRA through difficult times pre- and post-pandemic. Over my time on the KRA board, I feel that I have developed a good understanding of the challenges that we face, and also the strengths of this organization. We are a team that is committed by our love of sport and appreciation for what the game of ringette has given to our families. I hope that I have your trust in continuing to steward KRA for the next two years, as we aim to grow our sport and confront an era of change.

Yours in ringette,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PJ', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Johnson

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## CONTACT

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### *Nomination for Regional Convenor*

## BIO

Currently a Computer Audit Specialist with the Canada Revenue Agency. With over 15 years of experience working in the field of government, including charitable and non-profit organizations and specialty programs I have gained a vast amount of knowledge and have developed strong technical skills, the ability to effectively communicate and identify areas where improvements can be made to maximize efficiency.

Outside my career I am a huge family man and love sports. I love playing all sports but most enjoy playing softball and hockey. I love to go camping and our family's favourite camping spot is Tobermory. I watch the Blue Jays on TV whenever possible and we try to get to a couple games each season. I love the NFL and have always been a huge Denver Broncos fan. Playing a sport is not only an outlet to maintain a healthy life style but many life lessons are learned. These lessons and experiences forever shape us and youth sport is so important. My passion for sport and volunteering stems from my Dad, who was my coach growing up. I've been coaching my daughters since they were 4 years old. I'm also the President of the Baden Adult Coed Softball League and I am an Executive on the KW Oldtimers Hockey board as the Donations Director.

With my 2 daughters joining KRA October 2022 we didn't know what to fully expect. I have coached them for many years in softball but the ringette experience is like no other. Seeing them develop and thrive has brought me no greater joy. I have become very passionate about the game of ringette. I've watched a lot of sports on TV and in person, but nothing is more exciting then watching my daughters play ringette. Getting to watch them play at provincials these past 2 seasons has been without a doubt the most exciting games I've ever seen.

A few years ago while in a group setting I was asked to use one word to describe myself. Most will probably agree this seems like a tall task. How can one single word encompass a person? Surprisingly after only a few seconds I thought of the word. "Dad". I promise to help the KRA by always putting the needs of the players first and conducting myself in a way that makes my children proud.

Sincerely,

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