

President's Report – Year One of LORL

As we conclude the inaugural season of the Lower Ontario Ringette League, I'm proud to reflect on a year of strong beginnings, collaborative spirit, and valuable learning.

We began this journey with a smooth start, thanks to the solid foundation laid through our by-laws, rules and very dedicated volunteers. This preparation allowed us to navigate the season with clarity and consistency.

We recognize that communication is an area where we can improve. A more structured and accessible forum for league-wide communication is one of our top priorities for the upcoming season.

As with any major transition, there were challenges, and we thank everyone for their patience and support as we worked through them. With one year under our belt, we're ready to make thoughtful changes and aim for an even better second season.

A special thank you to **Chris Ouellette** for his flexibility and tireless efforts to resolve scheduling challenges throughout the season. Your commitment helped keep everything on track.

Michelle Linton deserves recognition for her outstanding work ensuring compliance with TRFs and substitution rules. This was a significant and sometimes frustrating task, but her diligence has helped clarify expectations and will lead to smoother processes in the future.

On the adult side of LORL, **Janet in't Veldt** and **Heather Hills** did an excellent job supporting and organizing the division. Your contributions were essential to the success of our adult programming—thank you both!

I also want to acknowledge **Scott Walker** for his leadership on the divisions side. His work with statistics and loop balancing was critical to ensuring fair and competitive play, both in the second half of the season and at the year-end tournament.

A thank you also goes out to **Wendy Stirbet** for her mad secretarial skills and her very thoughtful ideas on how to approach difficult scenarios within our league. **Bethany VanderKooy** has gotten us on the right track with our finances from the start and to ensure we are in compliance with the rules and regulations. **Jessica Mezenberg** and **Emma Bragg-Smith** have ensured that the officials' voice and concerns are heard and a

part of all discussions. A thank-you to **James Van Lierop** for his guidance and easy-going approach to difficult situations.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to our Communications Director, **Jason Routley** for getting us all set up on RAMP and for launching our website—both of which are significant steps forward for our organization. Most importantly, we are deeply grateful for your service in the Canadian Military. As you prepare for deployment near the Ukrainian and Russian conflict, please know that our thoughts are with you. We wish you strength, safety, and a successful mission.

We are also incredibly grateful to **London** for hosting a very successful year-end tournament. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the season and the hard work of all involved.

Lastly, we bid farewell to **Hanover** and **Exeter-Seaforth**, two associations that have officially dissolved. While it is always difficult to see associations close, we are heartened that their players have found new homes with neighbouring associations, ensuring continued opportunities to play and grow in the sport we all love.

Thank you all for your dedication and contributions to a successful first year. We look forward to building on this foundation and making next season even stronger.

Sincerely,
Shelley Handley
LORL President