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Tillsonburg Ringette Association

TRA – 2020 AGM July 14, 2020

President's Report

Our 2019/2020 Season was full of fun, fitness, and friendship. Our teams managed to add in some stiff competition and excitement, both on the ice and off! Then came the introduction of COVID-19 and our first ever Season All-Stop call from Ringette Ontario.

I would like to start this brief update by thanking all the volunteers within our small Association. Your Executive committee spends countless hours dealing with the business of Ringette in Tillsonburg, to ensure that our children all have a place to play. I must say that they have done an excellent job of it! They have shown a dedication to and a love of Ringette that is a tribute to the sport, and the athletes that play it.

Your Bench Staff, Ice Volunteers, Event Volunteers, and Referees all deserve a huge round of recognition as well. They do all the Facetime work. Planning drills, encouraging players, organizing, teaching. It's never easy, often comes with little recognition, and always has a few hurdles. Job well done. Our children are better people for your efforts and perseverance, and I thank you.

And Parents. You volunteer every time you drive to practice or a game. Every time your athlete needs a new piece of equipment. Someone needs a helping hand with a ride or tying skates... Everything that you give up so that they can continue to play they game they love. Thank you all.

So, some TRA stats and info for our 2019/2020 season:

Our LTS program saw its largest group on record, and the Adult program continued to grow. We have it from many community sources that Tillsonburg Ringette 'Hosts the Best' Learn to Skate Program in the area, and I think our excited little skaters prove it. I have not actually been able to put a number to it, but Becky has been 'herding the littles' for as far back as I can find records for, and probably longer! Thank you Becky for your long term commitment to Tillsonburg Ringette !

TRA hosted 3 travelling teams in U9, U10, and U12. Based on second half stats, Tillsonburg continues to be a strong Ringette centre and provide real competition to WORL Associations. Athlete membership for TRA was a healthy 71 across all age groups, with an additional 8 Athletes released to Regional play outside of TRA, and 8 more to Provincial level play, all within a number of neighbouring Associations! Dorchester, London, Mitchell and Kitchener thank us for continuing with our local 'Farming' practices.

We are fortunate to have 6 Referees call Tillsonburg home, and hope that they can continue to work with us as we look to bring some younger players into the Referee program in coming years.

RAMP continues to host our Website, and now that RO has adopted them as well, registration can be processed directly through our access portal. All our bylaws, policies, guidelines, team rosters, meeting minute summaries, fundraisers and schedule information are available online.

TRA Financial Report will be shared separately, but it's worth stating here that we are in good fiscal health considering the upcoming challenges that we are likely to see based on the current Global COVID pandemic. Cheyne, TRA Treasurer, worked diligently to build an operating budget for last season that provided an excellent framework for our group goals and known expenses.



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Fundraising has been a staple of Minor Sports forever. TRA has done a good job in continuing with the programs that work, testing new opportunities, and trying to minimize the overall number of events that we need to manage in order meet our budget. Our two major Fundraisers now consist of the Bottle Drive and our TRA Cash Calendar. Both were very successful last year and contributed to keeping Registration costs at previous levels. Our annual Sobey's BBQ was cancelled this spring due to COVID restrictions, but our FlipGive account is still seeing regular growth.

In the field of equipment, there have been few changes. As we look forward to 'Children's Ringette' we may require a few new components to facilitate half-ice games, and Team Jerseys continue to be a topic of conversation during executive meetings. While our sponsorship program has been accruing funds on a regular basis, those capital reserves may be needed to hold off some of the increased expenses that we are expecting to see in our 'new normal' under COVID induced restrictions

I like to leave Sponsorship to the end. Not because their support is unimportant, but in fact, just the opposite. I want to leave you thinking of them. We have been blessed over the past 2 years to have more support from our community than TRA has seen in many years. It is in large part due to the generosity and community spirit of our sponsors! They are willing to help provide funding for this forum for our children to grow in so many ways. Ringette is a game of skill. But at its heart, it teaches our children (and often us) the life skills needed to excel in anything they do. Social bonding. Fitness. Friendship. Sportsmanship. Character. Determination. Goal making and goal taking. Fun. They will retain these skills for a lifetime. As parents, we can't do it alone. Our sponsors give us that extra that we all need. As they support us, do what you can to support them in return!

Sincerely,

Tim Hurley
 President
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