

2022-2023 - President's Report

Another season is complete and what an amazing season it was!

With all regular activities back and all events taking place, our players were finally able to enjoy a regular season of ringette.

We started off last summer with our marketing in high gear with Waterloo ringette advertising on local buses in Kitchener and Waterloo. Our Come try Ringette event in the Fall was a success and we increased our numbers at the Fun 1, Fun 2 and Fun 3 levels. Marketing continued to be a focus throughout the season and our Come Try Ringette events in Spring 2023 were 2 of the most successful events in the last couple of years and we look forward to increased registration at the Fun levels for 2023-24.

We continued to work with Kitchener in team formation for the 2022-23 season forming combined competitive teams at the provincial level and working together at the regional level as well.

We continue to be a strong centre for the sport, hosting the AA Provincial Championships in conjunction with Kitchener in March 2023 and a AAA development camp in the Fall of 2022. We have also applied to host the A Provincial Championships in Waterloo in 2024.

Thank you to the dedicated coaches, bench staff and parents in our association. Everyone contributes to the success of our minor Waterloo teams and Waterloo - Kitchener combined teams, Open 18 + and our NRL team having significant success at the Regional Championships, Provincial Championships and Canadian National Championships. Waterloo players also significantly contributed to an exceptionally strong representation in the AAA program for Western region.

That being said, success is not just winning championships, but having players enjoy playing, being with friends, feeling a part of a team and wanting to continue playing beyond their minor years. If we can achieve that as an Association, then we have fulfilled our mandate and certainly our substantial membership playing at the Open 18 + level is proof we are succeeding.

Going forward our focus for next season continues to be increasing our membership through our marketing and advertising initiatives as well as increasing our volunteerism within our membership. We need to grow at the grass roots level in order to continue to thrive as an Association.

The next few years will be bringing some changes as Ringette Ontario rolls out a new structure for provincial play in the province. I think it is a positive move forward to come in line with other provincial programs in the country.

As we move into our 2023-24 season, we have had a great response to our call for volunteers to join the Board or take on a volunteer role in the Association. Waterloo Ringette has been a successful community sport organization for over 50 years and it is because of a dedicated volunteer base. There is always a place to volunteer in the association and I encourage reaching out any time!!

Finally, I want to thank our 2022-23 Board of Directors. A special thank you to those that are ending their terms this year, most of whom have been on the Board for multiple terms in multiple roles. You will be very missed, but I am excited to see where our newer Board members will take our Association.

I personally would like to thank you for the honour of leading the Waterloo Ringette Association Board over the last 3 years. I have worked with so many wonderful people who simply wanted to do what was best for our players, our Association and our sport.

WATER WATER WATER LOO LOO LOO!

Leah Chapman
President, Waterloo Ringette Association