

Waterloo Minor Ringette Association
Vice-President Report, 2022-2023

In the summer prior to the beginning of the 2022-2023 ringette season, Sabrina Emrich and I met with Vince Turkali and Mike Lorentz from Sportszone in Waterloo to arrange their business to provide clothing and fan products for the Waterloo Wildfire. This process lasted a few weeks and involved in-person meetings, e-mails and discussions with Board members to determine what items would be the best to arrange. This arrangement involved products being on display for families to purchase from the store itself or online.

In November, I ordered medals and labels for the season's Waterloo Winterfest Tournament from Unique Embroidery Promotions and Rewards in Waterloo. I spent a day in December applying the labels and arranging the sets. In January, I was able to help out at Winterfest and was lucky enough to hand out medals on Sunday.

Much of this season was spent interacting with parents and coaches - both from Waterloo and other organizations - regarding complaints. While a couple of these were internal issues regarding Waterloo teams, the most significant and time-consuming series of issues initially involved the head coach from Wellington North's U19 Regional team complaining about dangerous play by Waterloo's team. Although his complaints were initially about the whole team, he eventually focused on one male player. Interactions with this coach began in November 2022 and ran through to the end of the Regional tournament in April. With the assistance of multiple Board members and the Waterloo Wildfire U19 coaching staff, we did everything we could to ensure safe play. Unfortunately, further complaints came from the Goderich and Exeter-Seaforth coaches leading up to and during Regionals. However, after communicating with referees and coaches and having the opportunity to witness a number of Regional games between these teams myself, I was convinced that these complaints were unfounded. I am satisfied that the Regional tournament came to a satisfying conclusion after having addressed the other teams' concerns.

In May, I ran a project at my school for students in the Specialist High Skills Major program revolving around developing methods to attract more attention to ringette in Waterloo and get more players and families involved. Emily Moran assisting me with this event, and multiple Board members contributed to the ideas and planning.

Mike Richardson