

## 2023-24 President's Report

This is my first year as president of Waterloo Ringette Association (WRA) after spending several years as the Director of Marketing and Webmaster for the board. It's been a fast-paced season!

We focused a lot of energy in bringing awareness of this great sport back to the community. We hosted a Come Try Ringette event in September and a 2-day event in April. We also hosted a bring a friend skate. These events help us build our future teams by introducing the sport and skating skills to the FUN program. We also visited 7 schools and introduced more than 30 classes to "gym ringette".

This season, we had 32 registered players in FUN1/2 and 2 teams at FUN3. We hosted B level teams at U14 and U19 and provincial teams at U14A, U16A and U19AA as well as our National Waterloo team, who had 3 players invited to the Jr. Team Canada selection camp, continuing WRA's contribution of developing skilled, passionate ringette players.

Our teams travelled throughout the season and brought home some serious hardware –

- Waterloo NRL took Bronze at the Canadian Ringette Championships
- U12B took Gold in Tier 2 at Provincials
- U19B took Silver at Regionals
- U14A took Bronze in Tier 2 at Provincials
- U19AA are Great Lakes Ringette League Champions

Plus, many more medals throughout the tournament season. Of course, the medals may end up in boxes one day, but the memories and good times will last a lifetime. Thank you to the teams who submitted pictures for our social media accounts so we could follow your stories and cheer you on!

We hosted 2 very successful tournament this season – Winterfest and A Provincials. We saw 86 teams for Winterfest and 46 teams for A Provincials. We also helped Ringette Ontario secure ice in Waterloo for the AA Provincials. Our volunteers were busy!

As we look to the 2024-25 season, we remain committed to growing this sport. We'll do that with continuing our Come Try Ringette events, bring a friend skate and community outreach through the schools. We also remain committed to developing our players to their full potential and we strive to do this through knowledgeable, committed bench staff, power skating and introducing a dryland program to our teams.

This past season would not have been possible if not for the dedication of Waterloo's Board of Directors. They provide countless volunteer hours to this great sport and organization

through coaching, reffing, managing and volunteering in any capacity that is necessary to keep us moving forward. As I made my way through the season, I was provided tremendous support and guidance from this team, and I thank them for their patience. As always, we have some board members completing their terms (most after multiple terms) and we are sad to see you go - you will be missed.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, our members. Thank you for believing in this great sport and loading up equipment, packing for weekends away for tournaments, standing in cold arenas, travelling in the winter, cheering on your players, wiping away their tears and for just being part of our community.

See you at the rink!

Carolyn Baltaz

President

Waterloo Ringette Association