



Western Region Ringette Association

**Annual General Meeting
April 16, 2015**

Chair's Report

Six years ago I was elected to be the Chair of Western Region which in all aspects is your Region. Mind you the electoral ballot at that time only had one name on it so to a degree you were stuck with me. However I wanted to fill the position rather than filling the position because no one else wanted to. Why did I want it? Well prior to being your Chair I spent my time like many of you in arenas as a parent and a coach learning the practical aspects of this wonderful game. I got to the point where I wanted to learn more about the administrative aspects of the sport. The position of Chair of Western Region gave me that opportunity. As Chair of a Region you automatically become a member of the ORA Board and it is at the Board level where the majority of the sport administrative decisions are discussed and made. I can say without hesitation that it was one of the best decisions I have made. I've learned so much more about our sport. And to a degree I have helped and probably at times hindered its growth. We all try our best but we're not perfect. There have been decisions made at the ORA level over the past 6 years that I am sure have made you scratch your head and wonder "what the hell ????" but in retrospect there have been a number of decisions made that improved our sport.

After 6 years or three terms as your Chair it is time for me to step down and let a sharper mind with new perspectives fill the role. It's has been a wonderful and challenging experience and I encourage those of you who really want to make a difference and play an active role in the ongoing development of the sport to consider one day being our Chair.

I want to thank all of you for the support you gave me over the years. It was very much appreciated.

Now some housekeeping items.

The ORA AGM is quickly approaching. I encourage every association to send a delegate to the meeting. Your delegate will be allowed to vote independently on items tabled at the meeting. In the past the votes of any association not in attendance automatically went to the Regional Chair. That has changed, now there is a form that must be filled in naming a delegate who will carry your vote. The best idea would be for each association not planning to attend to provide a proxy naming the Regional Director as carrying their vote but realistically they can name anybody who will be in attendance.

There remains some confusion within our Regions as to where and when boys can play Ringette. Boys can play Regional Ringette at all levels. Provincial level Ringette is strictly for girls.

In closing I want to extend a special thanks to all Executive and Board members of the Western Region Ringette Association. Without the work they do we would not be one of the Strongest Regions in Ontario.

See you at the rink,

Peter Westelaken