



WESTERN REGION GENERAL MEETING

April 18, 2013

Chair's Report

I find it very difficult to believe that I am coming to the close of my 4th year as Director of Western Region. It is amazing how time flies by when you are actively involved in such a great sport. I continue to be inspired by the passion and commitment displayed by our many volunteers who give so much of their time to our players, to their communities and to our sport. It is our volunteers that make me honored to be the Director of what continues to be the largest and most successful Regions in Ontario.

Having said that I will point out that the position of Chair of Western Region is up for election this year. I have enjoyed my time as your representative but I understand that after a period of time change is required. I would like to step down as the Chair and thus open up an opportunity for a fresh mind and energetic soul to fill the position. I strongly encourage anyone who is interested to step forward and submit their name for election.

The backbone and foundation of our sport continues to be the players that participate on our Regional level teams. Without their numbers and without their growth and development we would not have our provincial level teams. The Western Region Ringette League (WRRL) continues to do an excellent job managing and developing the skill set of our players at the Regional level. Evidence of this again was the well balanced competitiveness of our Regional Tournament held in Guelph and Elora Fergus. Many thanks go out to all of the volunteers who made this event a very successful one.

The Western Ontario Ringette League (WORL) does a superior job at managing and providing our Provincial level players with top notch opportunities to hone their skills and develop into elite Ringette players. Our ongoing success at the Provincial and National Championships is evidence this. Year after year Western Region teams prove that they have our sports most elite players in both Ontario and in Canada. The 2012-2013 season was the first during my tenure as Director where we did not hold a Tribunal. I attribute this to the effectiveness and transparency of the WORL Tryout and Selection Process. My hat's off to the executive of WORL.

The ORA AGM is being held May 31st - June 2nd at the Cambridge Hotel and Conference Center. It is a great opportunity to have your voice heard, your vote counted and to have the rest of the province see what Western Region is all about. At the very least it would be great to have the Presidents from all of our associations present at the ORA AGM.

I will finish off by thanking my fellow executive members and coordinators not only for their support but also for the administrative work they do to ensure your needs are met at the Regional level. Like many of you they are parents or grandparents of players, they are members of bench staffs, they are actively involved with their local associations and yet they still give their volunteer time to sit on this board.

Thank you very much and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Peter Westelaken
Director, Western Region