

CHILLIWACK RINGETTE ASSOCIATION
Annual Reports as presented by the board of directors
May 6, 2017
Sardis Public Library, Chilliwack, BC

President's Report

Shannon Bettles

In March, 2016 Chilliwack ringette was reborn. The vision - to provide ringette athletes, players and coaches a place to play and have fun in ringette locally.

Much work was done this year to realize this vision. I must firstly acknowledge the work of fellow founding members: Laurie Benton, Christine McPhee and Nicole Borges, each of whom has taken on multiple administrative and active roles. Julie Bauer, Michelle Purdon and Mike Kinar are also deserving of much recognition as they dared to join us in forming the first executive board of our association. Many positive initiatives have begun which will benefit our Association well. Without the tireless work of these volunteers as well as the coaches and managers that joined us this season, the idea of a Chilliwack Ringette Club would not have left the ground.

The initial work undertaken last spring involved registering with the BC Register of Societies, creating a constitution and bylaws, working with the City of Chilliwack to obtain ice, recruiting players and building relationships with the Lower Mainland Ringette League and the BC Ringette Association. We have had overwhelming support from these groups in too many ways to mention here. Big thanks to Mike Stadnyk, Nicole Robb, Colin Ensworth and the Parks and Recreation staff of the City of Chilliwack.

The local community, as well, has had a positive response to our efforts. Our first Come Try Ringette saw over 30 participants and was made possible by the Harvest Cafe, Triple B Plumbing, Panago Pizza, the Lower Mainland Ringette Legacy Fund, and the Lower Mainland Ringette AA U16 team. Other in-kind or financial donations were received by Barbara Bettles, Spent Technologies, Triple B Plumbing, Tim Hortons, Chilliwack Minor Hockey, ViaSport, Fraser Valley Ringette, Don Young Photography and Streamline Ringette. Many, many thanks to these organizations and individuals.

Registration proved better than we initially expected, with 21 athletes ages 4 - 11 signing up. The numbers meant that two teams were formed, instead of the planned one. Being a new association meant many growing pains such as a shortage of ice, a need to develop coaches and the requirement of two sets of equipment and jerseys. The Association handled these challenges well, finding extra ice, obtaining donations of equipment and undertaking some creative fundraising. The board was pleased that we were able to obtain some grants, including a \$3000 from ViaSport, which helped keep startup costs from transferring to ringette families and potentially deterring registration numbers.

Our inaugural year, too, was a growing one. I believe our U10 team had the most spirit in the league,

losing graciously at first to more experienced teams, and working hard to improve and even winning games at the end of the season. Our U7s were tenacious little bears, benefiting immensely from the great experience (and patience) of our coaches. The vast amount of improvement we have seen in our athletes came as somewhat of a surprise seeing as the majority of our skaters were new and all were new to the sport. I believe this earns us all - parents, coaches and players alike - a very big congratulations!

Our teams competed in the Fraser Valley Ringette Michelle Vandale Spirit of Winter Tournament as well as the Poco Jamboree at the end of the season. Many thanks to the Spirit of Winter Tournament organizers for including us at no extra charge.

Plans for next season are already underway. A Come Try Ringette event is scheduled and there are more than 15 players already signed up. Our registration system will be improved this year and we are looking towards the possibility of housing three teams. We have much work to do - more ice will be obtained and more equipment will be required. We are applying to gaming funds and other grants which we hope will offset the extra costs. We will continue to rely on the support of our member families to fill volunteer positions required to keep the association running. We will need continue to need coaches, officials, board members and managers to work behind the scenes, as well as parent volunteers to help with scoresheets and time keeping duties.

2017-2018 season promises to build on the successes and lessons learned from this season. We appreciate the members' continued support as we navigate somewhat unknown waters and iron out the administrative details. Watch for more opportunities to participate in ringette camps, fundraisers and promotional events. We hope to have Chilliwack Ringette clothing on offer next season, more ice time and even more fun events.

Vice President's Report

Nicole Borges

As Vice President, I've tried to support our President and board as we navigate through the season. This includes going to our Lower Mainland Ringette League (LMRL) Board Meetings, AGM of BC and our own board meetings. I have actioned the jobs that required my attention. Some of the challenges that have come up are: referees, coaching certification and obtaining ice.

Equipment Manager Report

Christine McPhee

Since this was the inaugural season for Chilliwack Ringette, there was a lot of equipment that we needed to obtain. We were able to acquire equipment from various sources including donations from Chilliwack Minor Hockey and BCRA, jerseys from Tim Hortons, as well as purchasing new items. Items that we need to look at purchasing for the upcoming season include: Jerseys, new shooter tutors (we bought the

incorrect ones last year), another first aid kit, goalie gear, and some more ringette sticks. We hope to find a sponsor to help cover the cost of jerseys.

Thank You.

Director of Coaching

Nicole Borges

I am proud to report that we have 3 newly certified coaches, 3 already holding certifications all whom have their Criminal Record Check's completed. We had some CITs (coach in training) come out and help us with our youth – Jocelyn McComb & Quiana Borges. We've been working with BC Ringette Association to get more support with regards to coaching as well. This coming season we hope to have the coaching & bench staff applications online to make it easier and more accessible to our members.

Director of Officials

Nicole Borges

As the only certified referee in our association it's been a bit of a challenge, one that we've discussed at our board meetings and need to address this coming season. We are looking within our association to see if there are any parents or siblings that are wanting to become certified, then sourcing out the hockey association as they've shown interest. So please if you have any questions, interest in becoming a ref, come see me! It is fun and extremely rewarding.

Registrar's Report

Laureen Benton

We did it! When we were unsure if we would have ice or any players, we managed to successfully form two teams. This accomplishment should be noted as a brilliant success.

Chilliwack Ringette Association for the 2016-17 inaugural season was composed of two teams;

U7 team – 12 players aging from 4-8 years of age.

U10 team – 10 players aging from 7-12

(U10 team was brought down to the U9 division for the remainder of the season from mid January).

Our registration fee this season was low. Unfortunately, the cost did not cover the cost of the ice we used and so we will likely have to increase our registration fee. However, similar to other associations we will look into offering early bird incentives, family discounts, payment plans, etc to help our families with budgeting for the years as well as allowing the association to plan appropriately for the beginning of the season.

Our registration form this year was created using a Google Forms Document. This method enabled us to deliver a straightforward, easy to use document for free. Our aim was to have registration ready for our first Come Try It session in May 2016. However, logistical issues got in the way and this Google form was easy to send out as well as have available online on our website. It was perfect for our first year.

Moving forward, we are setting up the Karelo e-Service system for registration. This service is relatively inexpensive and will be able to have our association information, registration details as well as payment on the site. We are hoping to have the option of payment plans, credit card payments and other easy to use features. We are hoping the service will be ready for this years Come Try Ringette session on the 13th May.

Player Development Report

Mike Kinar

Let me begin by saying it has been an honour and privilege to serve on the Board of Directors for the Chilliwack Ringette Association. It is an amazing opportunity for a sport to grow when the individuals leading the development possess the passion for the sport, the continued commitment to the sport's development, and vast personal experiences and successes within the sport. Thank you to all the members of the Board for allowing me to be a part of this experience.

For the purpose of our first year as an Association, I approached Player Development as having two responsibilities: first, was the development of sport specific skills and resources; second, was developing the awareness and involvement in the sport as a whole.

Skill Development:

Two skating instructors were brought in, each with different backgrounds and focus. As the number of athletes, teams, and ice-times increase there will be more opportunity for these types of special instructors. Primary goal is to develop a resource base of instructors for future coaches.

Sport Awareness:

Increase the number of athletes involved in the sport through education. The Kids Expo was an excellent opportunity to bring awareness to the sport. Many connections were made and I expect a good return on our investment of time, as there were many people interested in having their children play ringette. Thank you to all the players and parents who volunteered their time to make this event a success.

An immediate return on the Kids' Expo was a request to have a similar display at the Yarrow Community BBQ and Block Party on the 27th of May. Any parents and/or athletes who are able to volunteer that day can speak to me after the meeting. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to the 2017-2018 season.