

CHILLIWACK RINGETTE ASSOCIATION
Annual Reports as submitted by the board of directors
April 21, 2017
Rosedale Community School, Chilliwack, BC

President's Report
Shannon Bettles

Welcome to the second Annual General Meeting of the Chilliwack Ringette Association. Two years ago when a few of us set out to bring ringette to the Eastern Fraser Valley we had no idea that within that time, we would have also become coaches, officials, camp organizers, minor officials, policy writers, scorekeepers, shot clock operators, fundraisers, league representatives, grant writers, and ringette parents. We didn't know we would have such an amazing turnout of young athletes and families — 56 athletes this year – and we did not know that we would meet such wonderful, community-oriented people with many of whom we and our kids have formed friendships with, that we hope will last a lifetime.

Ringette is family. If you are new to ringette, we hope that you have started to see that ringette embodies a culture of its own, different from other team ice sports. Ringette — and our association — endeavours to be inclusive, accessible, and fun, while also providing opportunities for fitness, high performance training, and friendship. The small community of ringette families in Chilliwack and the Lower Mainland means that we are all part of the same team. We travel to Richmond and Vancouver together, we huddle in cold arenas together, and we support each other through challenges. This is the ringette family - we acknowledge the role that each of you have played in it. Thank you.

The following individuals and businesses contributed to the overwhelming success of our association this season. I would like to acknowledge the following people for contributing cash, grants, or in-kind donations to our association, as well as the many donations we received for the 2017 Pub Night Fundraiser:

- Barbara Bettles
- Spent Technologies Ltd.
- Chilliwack Minor Hockey Association
- Amalgamated Trading Ltd.
- Triple B Plumbing Ltd.
- GDS Welding Ltd.
- Streamline Ringette
- Don Young Photography
- Lower Mainland Legacy Fund
- BC Community Gaming Grant
- Via Sport, BC

- Participaction
- Fraser Valley Rhythmic Gymnastics Club
- Tim Hortons
- Beaudies House of Hockey and Ringette
- Chilliwack Progress Newspaper

The 2017-18 playing season successfully built on our inaugural season, with an almost 100% retention rate from the previous season. The registration numbers more than doubled, going from 23 to 56 and from 2 teams to 4!

The overwhelming increase in athletes at the U7 and U9 level left us challenged to find coaches and ice for two teams instead of one. A huge thank you goes out to our coaches Julie Bauer and Laurie Benton and the volunteer helpers they recruited to assist on and off-ice with our association's youngest athletes. The sheer amount of time and energy these two put into the season is to be highly commended, and in their words... never repeated! Noted. We will recruit and establish helpers sooner next season so that we have coaches trained and established for all teams earlier.

At the U12 level, our Wildcats team completed in the U10 division and made big strides in their skating, ringette and goaltender development skills. A big thank you to the many parent volunteers who helped on and off-ice with the U12 team.

For the first time, a Chilliwack Ringette Open B adult team playing out of Abbotsford was formed. The team earned a historic Provincial bronze medal — the first provincial medal for our association. Having an Open team brings many years of experience to Chilliwack's association, which we have been able to tap into. Thanks to the Open team's coach Lisa Egan who helped out at the youth practices, imparting her years of coaching experience to both athletes and coaches.

Last August, we launched our first summer ringette camp. The camp was a success despite the extreme heat and smoke from the BC wildfires. Power-skating instructor Debbie Beaudoin taught on ice along with junior coaches, association coaches and volunteers. We are planning another camp this summer and have already started to get inquiries from families in the Lower Mainland and as far away as the Okanagan.

Looking forward to 2018-19 season we welcome new board members who will share the load as we keep building. We aim to hold an officiating clinic and train more coaches early next fall. Recruitment is looking promising thanks to promotional efforts by our board members at local events, at gym ringette programs, and we are holding an upcoming Come Try Ringette event on May 26.

Our ringette family is growing. Thanks to our members for continuing to support us through challenging inaugural years, for trusting in us, and for your involvement as we build a community sports group Chilliwack can be proud of.

Ice-Scheduler Report

Shannon Bettles

An unexpected four teams this season resulted in a more complicated and challenging ice schedule this season. The City of Chilliwack was able to offer us three hours of ice per week, but we had little say in the days and times of the ice. The 5:00 pm and 5:30 pm ice times we received worked well for practices, but we were unable to schedule games on this ice as opposing teams are unable to make it to weekday games in Chilliwack prior to 7 pm. This put stress on our association to source ice for home games on weekends as it left three youth teams to share the 12:00 pm weekend ice for games.

To combat the demand for game ice, we were lucky to find ice at Abbotsford Centre Ice on Saturdays at a reasonable time. Because Abbotsford Centre Ice is privately owned we were not able to receive the subsidized youth ice rates that we enjoy in Chilliwack. This meant that we were paying \$300 per hour of ice, opposed to \$127/ hour. Additionally, we managed to secure ice in Hope in the instance that we would need to reschedule games or practices to make room for a home game, which we did on occasion. The Fraser Valley Regional District who operates the Hope Arena were wonderful to work with and kindly welcomed us to Hope. Our cost for ice in Hope is significantly more affordable at \$74/ hour and we will look to utilize more ice in Hope next season.

Last week, two of our board members attended the groundbreaking event for the additional ice surface at Twin Rinks. We anticipate the availability of more Chilliwack ice upon the completion of this project. However, this won't happen likely until late in 2019, after our 2018-2019 season is completed.

Our Open team was able to secure late night ice in Abbotsford at the MSA Arena and used Abbotsford Centre Ice for some of their home games. Centre ice is the only arena in Abbotsford that has ringette lines, making it challenging to find ice for the team. The team found the late night Sunday ice difficult for members to attend, and will be looking for a better ice time next season. The Open team pays adult rates for ice.

Because our association's territory extends from Abbotsford, to Mission, Chilliwack and Hope, and we have athletes who live in Hope and Abbotsford, we are attempting to find ice in these areas for next season as well. Ice times are typically allocated in the summer for the fall, so we are not able to let you know what the ice times will be like for next season yet.

Treasurer Report

Christine McPhee

The past 2 years as treasurer for the Chilliwack Ringette Association have been both challenging and exciting. This past year, we have improved our financial situation significantly. Our total revenue was \$36,658.81 and expenses were \$31,004.77, which means a net income

of \$5,654.04. Reasons for the net income include; receiving BC gaming funds and legacy grant, remarkable fundraising, increases in registration, and generous donations. Our largest expenses this year were ice rental and the purchase of jerseys. This year, we had to pay LMRL fees, which was an expense that was waived last year.

While it's been a pleasure to serve as treasurer, I will not be running for this role for the upcoming season.

Equipment Manager Report Christine McPhee

This year was full of ups and downs in the equipment department. Despite following all protocols, we did not manage to receive TimBits jerseys for our U7/U9 teams this year. Thankfully, Chilliwack Minor Hockey was kind enough to donate us a set of their TimBits jerseys. Another trying situation this season was our malfunctioning shot clock. It was purchased brand new last year, but has not been working well. I have been in contact with the manufacturer to have these issues resolved.

The major development in equipment this year was the purchase of Chilliwack Ringette jerseys! We purchased 1 set of 25 in both black and white in youth size and 1 set in adult size. Seeing our logo out on the ice for the first time was a momentous occasion...and I, for one, could not be more proud to wear our jerseys. Other equipment purchases this year included: new shooter tutors, goalie equipment, pinnies, and rings.

Regarding upcoming equipment purchases, I am already in contact with our jersey supplier regarding ordering another set of jerseys for our U7/U9 teams for next year. I will also be in touch with Twin Rinks staff regarding the possibility of mounting a shot clock in the arena, to avoid having to bring them with us each time a team needs to use them.

Director of Promotions Report Tracy Wolbeck

The word is getting out! This year, the Chilliwack Ringette Association (CRA) partnered with the Chilliwack Progress in a bi-weekly newspaper segment called 'Local Sports Heroes.' There were pictures of U7, U9, and U12 athletes with write-ups about what they considered to be the best part of being in ringette. This was great exposure for the sport and we continue this partnership into next season. Last May we held our second 'Come Try Ringette' event and were able to build another team from many of the participants who attended the event. The CRA also had a booth at the Kids Expo in Feb to promote our sport. This event drew large crowds and there were several requests to receive email information regarding upcoming events and the 2018/2019 season.