



# Spring 2009 Newsletter

Welcome back from March Break. We hope everyone was able to enjoy a little time off last week. Although the season is drawing to a close there is still a lot going on. First and foremost.....

## **Ringette Rocks out in red, white and black!!**

**Don't wait** – there's less than a week left to get your tickets to the annual year-end banquet. See your team's banquet representative – tickets are \$18 per person (\$12 for Bunnies and Novice players).

Join us **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.** at the Algonquin College Banquet Hall (free parking available in lot #8). You won't want to miss the fun, dancing, prizes, awards and an awesome slide show with highlights from the past season.

Teams, don't forget to get your photos, videos, team song and other team highlights into Rich Wyatt by March 27<sup>th</sup> and work on those posters to showcase your team on banquet night!

The annual banquet is a West Ottawa subsidized event which offers the entire association the opportunity to come together and celebrate the past season and say thank you to all the volunteers and players. So put on your red, white and black and come out and enjoy!

## **Special Recognition Awards**

A number of special recognition awards will be presented at the banquet and there are a couple of awards for which we'd like the membership to nominate potential recipients.

One of these is the Louise E. Holloway Memorial Award for 'Volunteer of the Year' - this award is for someone who is always willing to contribute, someone who has gone above and beyond in contributing to the association and its goals over the past year.

The other is the J.D. Green Spirit Award - this award is for the team that has demonstrated true team spirit and good sportsmanship throughout the season.

To nominate a person or a team for these awards, please send your submission to Jim Santagati at [administration@westottawaringette.com](mailto:administration@westottawaringette.com) and include a short paragraph stating why this person or team is deserving of the award. Nominations must be received by Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **2009/10 Registration**

Preprinted registration forms for next year will be handed out at the banquet and again on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at the tryouts. Forms not picked up by the end of the weekend will be mailed out.

We are currently working on our budget and fee structure for next year and don't have final numbers to tell you yet, but please note that the City has increased the cost of ice by 11.8% for next year.

## **West Ottawa's AA Program**

With our Tweens and Juniors not earning a spot at Provincials this year, there have been some questions raised about the future of our AA program and whether we are going to continue fielding AA teams. The answer is that we are a competitive association and we are going to continue to develop our AA program. And how are we doing that? We have a number of initiatives underway to strengthen our AA program from the bottom up. These initiatives benefit all of our players. We are working with our coaches to develop and implement guidelines to help ensure consistency in skills taught and player development. This past year we provided the coaches of the Bunny to Novice B levels with documented guidance to follow so that the players were all being taught certain critical skills at each of these levels. In addition, our monthly coaches' meetings have been a very successful way of sharing knowledge and coaching philosophies among all the coaches. We are also continuing to implement a coach mentor program, where our more experienced coaches assist the newer coaches with everything from running a practice to how they should run their bench during a game. We still have a ways to go with this program, but we believe we are heading in the right direction.

Next season our competitive coaches are going to start meeting regularly as a group to discuss concepts, review practice plans, discuss the players' development, and review statistics from league play and tournament play to help keep us on the right path to developing a stronger AA program.

2009/2010 marks only our fourth year where West Ottawa has fielded its own AA teams. Our program is very young and time and patience are needed to develop successful programs at both the A and AA levels. We recognize that these building years are challenging for all of our competitive players and coaches. The positive attitude, team spirit, perseverance and work ethic displayed by the players and coaches of our very first AA teams are what made it possible to introduce an AA program in the first place. Although it has been an uphill battle for these AA teams, they have also enjoyed the challenges of playing ringette at the highest level against the top teams in Ontario and Quebec through tournaments and league play in the Quebec elite league. Players and parents should keep in mind that building an AA program also has an initial domino effect on the A level, where teams may have very few players with previous competitive experience. The upside to all this is that more West Ottawa players will have an opportunity to play on competitive teams now and in the future. We appreciate your support and continued commitment to helping us grow our programs and our association.



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### Coach Assessment Forms

As coaches are starting to apply for coaching positions for next year, it is extremely important that we receive your feedback (whether positive or negative) on your coaches and other bench staff. The Coach Assessment Form can be found under 'Association - Documents' and should be returned to the Competitive Coordinator or the Recreational Coordinator accordingly. For your convenience, there will be a box to drop them off in at the banquet.

### Spring Tryouts for Competitive Players

Spring tryouts for players who are interested in playing on a competitive team in 2009/2010 are scheduled for Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and the weekend of April 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. The complete schedule is posted on the website. There will be a charge of \$35 per player for these tryouts.

Please note that players must also be registered for next year in order to tryout. If you don't pick up your pre-printed registration forms at the banquet, they will be available at the arena, so please bring your cheque book (cheques will be post-dated and can be returned if your plans should change before September 1<sup>st</sup>).

Anyone interested in playing on one of our competitive teams should attend at least two of the tryout sessions for their age group. Please note that only those players selected for an AA team will be notified that they have been selected for the team at this time. All other players that attend the tryouts will be asked to return in the fall at which time we will finalize all the competitive teams.

For additional information we encourage you to read 'West Ottawa Competitive Program – What to Expect' and 'Player Assessment Guidelines', both of which can be found on the website under 'Association – Documents'. Please contact Colleen Armstrong, Competitive Coordinator, if you have any questions.

### Competitive Coaching Applications

We are currently seeking applications for coaches for our 2009/2010 AA, A and Provincial Petite teams. Applications can be found on the website under 'Association - Documents' and should be submitted to Colleen Armstrong, Competitive Coordinator, at [competitive@westottawaringette.com](mailto:competitive@westottawaringette.com) by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Eastern Region AAA Team

Every two years, the Ontario Ringette Association forms Regional All-Star teams in each of its six regions. All players age second-year Tween and up should have received their letter from the region inviting them to attend the tryouts for the Eastern Region AAA team. West Ottawa is hosting an on-ice information session to help players in the region learn about the AAA level of ringette, understand how to perform well at the AAA tryouts and practice on-ice skills and tactics that the AAA evaluators may be looking for. This session is being run by Paul Youldon and Colleen Moore (these coaches are not affiliated with the AAA team) on

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Pre-registration is required** and there are only a couple of spaces remaining. For all the details, please see the March 28<sup>th</sup> AAA Clinic Flyer posted under 'Association – Documents' on the website.

### Annual General Meeting

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be coming up shortly and we encourage all members to attend this important meeting. Not only is it a great opportunity to learn more about how the Association operates and bring forward any questions or concerns you may have, but this year we will be asking the membership to vote on a number of by-law changes. As promised at last year's AGM, we have reviewed the by-laws and are proposing a number of amendments to bring them more in line with current practices.

We are also looking for people interested in joining the board of directors. We anticipate that there will be five directors to be elected to the board of directors at the AGM, with two of the existing board members running for re-election. The remaining five board members are in the middle of their two year terms and are not up for re-election this year. We strongly encourage anyone considering joining the board to contact us to obtain more information. Please call Kathy McCaw at 831-0107 or any other member of the Executive.

The date of this meeting will be announced via e-mail to all members and an information package will be circulated ahead of time outlining the proposed by-law amendments and other important details.

Everyone who attends the AGM will have their name entered into a draw for a free 2009/10 registration!

### Tournament Wrap-Up

A big thank you to all members for all of your help over the West Ottawa tournament weekend. This was our most successful tournament to date with 66 teams participating and a profit of over \$10,000!

A special thanks to our Tournament Coordinator Laurie Chatigny, the tournament committee, the arena reps and all the players who helped with the Bunnies and the prize tables. Thanks also to WSI for providing cell phones for the event and to Orlene Campbell and Dare Foods for all the treats for the participants.

### Summer Programs

To assist those who are interested in continuing to develop their ringette skills over the summer, we have compiled a list of camps we are aware of and posted it on the website under 'Association – Documents'. In addition, we are working on plans for our own West Ottawa summer 'camp' program of skills, drills and scrimmages on a once a week basis during the summer. Stay tuned for further details!

Everyone please remember to check the website in mid to late August for the fall tryout/placement schedule as fall tryouts and placements will start in early September.

Until then, have a safe and enjoyable summer!