

# Ringette eReview

Connecting Canada's Ringette Community  
Issue II Volume I October 2005



## Ringette Leadership Meets

Over 30 leaders in the sport of ringette got together from June 8-10 in Charlottetown, PEI to discuss the future of the game and of Ringette Canada. Aided by traditional PEI hospitality, the group was able to tackle many of the tough issues facing the sport, as well as examine the key, exciting opportunities for ringette.

The Board of Directors of Ringette Canada made an important decision regarding the Canada Games. The format of the Canada Games event has been changed to a two-pool format from the traditional full round robin event. This change will allow ringette's athletes to fully enjoy the games experience by giving them a little more downtime during the week. This change was based on feedback from the coaches at the previous Canada Games and from our partners at the Canada Games Council.

The General Assembly approved a rule change regarding sticks for use in Canada. The rules regarding the tips of the stick were amended to allow for grooves or indentations in the tips. This change will facilitate the use of popular sticks from Finland in Canada next year.

Ringette Canada added a new member to the Executive Committee at the meeting. **Iris Todd**, of Edmonton, Alberta was elected as the new Vice President Officiating. She joins President, **Joanne Dearden** (Ottawa, ON), VP Coaching and Athlete Development **Danielle Hobday** (Dugald, MB), **Jim Dawson**, VP Administration (St. Albert, AB), and **Kristin Albo**, VP Competitions (Winnipeg, MB) on the Executive Committee. **Stephan Blackman** (Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC) stayed on the Executive Committee, but moved from the position of VP Officiating, to the position of VP High Performance.

Since PEI did such a great job hosting the event this year, the rotation of host sites will continue in the future. Local and provincial associations have until the end of August to submit a bid to host the AGM, and an announcement will be made in mid September concerning the location of the 2006 AGM and conference.

## University Ringette

At the AGM and conference the Board of Directors also worked on a role for Ringette Canada within the area of university ringette. Currently there are 8 university ringette clubs functioning on campuses across Canada, with much of the growth happening in the past few years. With that in mind, the Board elected to let the university programs continue to work on their own, developing another way for young women to participate in their favourite game. Look to the university section of the Ringette Canada website for more information on the existing university clubs, and advice on how to start a new one.

## Stripes

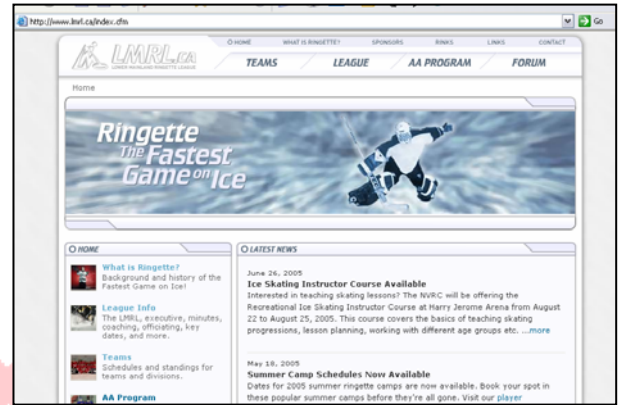
With rule changes coming into effect this year, Ringette Canada held a Master Instructor Clinic for senior officials. These officials came together and learn the ins and outs of the new rules so that they can pass those on to officials at all levels of the sport.

A reminder to all officials – Everyone must take an officiating certification and/or refresher clinic this year as we are in a rule change year. Please be sure to check with your local or provincial organization about times and dates of these clinics.

## RingNet

In each Ringette eReview we will profile a local association's website. If you have any suggestions for a superb website, let us know, and will show it off to all of Canada.

The Lower Mainland Ringette League (www.lmrl.ca) has developed a site where its members can get caught up on every facet of sport. This includes schedules, key contacts, important dates and committee meeting minutes. Combined with the users' forum, where members can talk with each other, the site makes sure that everyone in LMRL can know what is going on at all times.



## National Ringette League



The NRL continues to plan for the upcoming year. Most importantly, the league has developed a national championship tournament. From April 1-3, the three league winners will join at Rive-Sud in a four team NRL championship weekend. The event will be the perfect appetizer of outstanding ringette for everyone gearing up for the CRC's to follow the next day.

## Canadian Ringette Championships

The slate of CRC host sites is now set through 2008.

The 2006 hosts from Longueuil, Quebec are well into their preparations for the event. The group is excited to bring the Canada's best to the City of Longueuil, located on Montreal's South Shore from April 3-8, 2006. The CRC's will return to the Maritimes for the first time since the 2001 event in Moncton in the year 2007. The greater Halifax Region will be the site of the 2007 CRC's, hosted by Ringette Nova Scotia.

At the recent Ringette Canada AGM, the St. Albert Ringette Association was awarded the 2008 CRC's. St. Albert, near Edmonton, Alberta, will use the CRC's to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Albert Ringette Association and the grand opening of St. Albert's Multi-Purpose Recreation Centre.

## “And Stay Out of the Penalty Box”



On April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, ringette lost its ambassador and its best friend, **Agnes Jacks**. Agnes was a tireless promoter of our sport and a beloved figure in the life of thousands of ringette players around the world. Agnes' contributions to our sport and to its people cannot be underestimated. Coming up with a recognition that fits Agnes' part in the heart of our sport was not easy, as there simply is no recognition big enough. However, we went back and looked at what was important to Agnes, and what she taught our sport.

That lesson was sportsmanship.

Starting with the 2006 CRC's in Longueuil, Quebec, the Fairplay Awards, in all divisions, will be known as the “**Agnes Jacks Fairplay Awards**”. We know that this will be a reminder to ringette players, across Canada, and for years to come, that Fairplay is at the heart of our sport, just as is Agnes, our beloved ambassador.

## Our Olympic Dream

The dream of participating in the Olympic Games is shared by every ringette player, past or present, in Canada or anywhere else in the world. The questions of how comes often, and here is a summary of what steps we need to take to become part of the Olympic Games:

- ✓ **Increase our international participation.** In order to be a part of the Winter Olympic Games ringette will have to have 25 countries participating in the sport, from 3 continents. This requirement is part of the International Olympic Charter is therefore unlikely to change. That means it is up to us and our partners with the International Ringette Federation to continue to spread the game around the world.
- ✓ **Have a competitive World Championship.** The International Olympic Committee likes events where they don't already know who will win. This means that it is not enough for us to spread the game to other countries. We have to teach them to not only play against us, but to beat us!
- ✓ **Show Pride in Our Sport.** It is important to realize that being in the Olympic Games will not make ringette a great sport. We will be a great sport whether we are in the Games or not. Cricket is a sport played by nearly a billion people around the world, with a World Cup final watched on television by nearly half the planet, but Cricket is not part of the Olympic Games. Likewise our sport is a great game, enjoyed by thousands around the world and that will not change with or without the Olympic Games! If we grow our sport because we love it, we are more likely to get the attention of the Olympic movement than if we try to specifically address their concerns and criteria.
- ✓ **Think Long Term.** Our participation in the Olympic Games will take a long time to come to fruition. In the meantime we have to continue to grow and develop our sport, knowing that every step we take in improving our game is a step closer to the goal of Olympic participation.
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## New Members of the Ringette Family



Wilson Trophy Limited, of Mississauga, Ontario has joined the Ringette Family as the Official Trophy Provider to Ringette Canada and the National Ringette League. Wilson Trophy provides medals, trophies and special awards to the CRC's and the NRL, including the highest prize in our sport – the CRC Gold Medal!

If your tournament, league or event is looking for outstanding service and selection for its trophy needs contact the company that supplies to ringette's biggest and best events, Wilson Trophy. You can reach Wilson at [www.wilsontrophy.ca](http://www.wilsontrophy.ca) or at 1-800-387-3138.



Dom Sports and Games have joined up with Ringette Canada and the National Ringette League to make the Ring Jet 500 stick the official stick of the National Ringette League. The Ring Jet 500's innovative grooved design, along with the lightweight strength you have come to expect from the Ring Jet line of sticks will make this a 'must have' for every serious ringette player. You will see the Ring Jet 500 in the hands of Canada's best athletes this fall as they start on the NRL season. You can expect the winning goal at the National Ringette League championships will be scored with a Ring Jet 500! Check out [www.domsports.com](http://www.domsports.com) for more information on the Ring Jet 500 and on their entire line of ringette sticks for every level of play and every budget.

## Our Coaches

By now, most coaches in Canada are familiar with the National Coaches Certification Program (NCCP) philosophy. Coaches in the NCCP are asked to *do* what they have learned and to do it with the group they have been trained to coach. This led to the start of the Community Sport Initiation coach level two years ago. This level is geared to coaches that are helping new players develop the key skills necessary to progress in the sport.

Starting this fall, we are introducing Introduction to Competition. This level is for coaches that are starting to go beyond the basics and are working athletes that are generally a little older, a little more skilled and are getting ready to get serious about their ringette lives. The Introduction to Competition coaching context will include a classroom session, usually over a weekend, and a comprehensive practice evaluation. Courses for this context will be delivered starting this fall. Call your provincial ringette association for information on where and when those courses will be held.

The next, and final step will be the Competitive-Development coaching context. This will work with coaches that are geared towards elite athletes playing at a high level. The initial work on this context will begin later this year.

For more information, check the Ringette Canada website (coaching section), or the Coaches' Association of Canada ([www.coach.ca](http://www.coach.ca)).

## The Ringette Canada Calendar

There is a lot going on in the ringette world in the coming months. See below for details on the happenings at Ringette Canada:

Date	Event	Location	Contact
November 21-25	Ringette Week	Canada	Ringette Canada Office
November 22	Wear Your Jersey Day	Canada	Ringette Canada Office
December 15	Deadline to submit nominations to Ringette Canada's Hall of Fame	-----	Ringette Canada Office
January 13-15	Ringette Canada Board of Directors Meeting	Ottawa	Ringette Canada Office
January 31	Applications for Ringette Canada Scholarships are due	-----	Ringette Canada Office
April 3-8	2006 Canadian Ringette Championships	Longueuil, QC	

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