

2025-2026
Annual General Meeting
Kitchener Ringette Association



Murray Fried Room - Activa
Sportsplex and Google Meet
May 28, 2026

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WELCOME

Welcome to everyone able to attend KRA's 2025-2026 AGM. Once again, this year we're happy to provide a hybrid meeting style with an online component for those who can't make the meeting in person. Over the next hour or so we will look back at what was the 2025-2026 season and start looking forward to 2026-2027.

For those attending the AGM online

Once again, this year we have the option to attend the meeting through Google Meeting account. Please note the following notes and rules for the meeting to ensure that everything flows smoothly.

- We request that all participants mute their microphones when you connect to the meeting
- Once connected, please send a private chat Peter Johnson for attendance purposes. If you intend to vote please also include your player's name(s) and what team he or she plays on.
- Remember that there is only 1 vote per player. If you only have a single player in your household, only one parent/guardian may vote on any topic.
- Questions can be posed in the chat window of the meeting and Sam will relay them to the live meeting.
- The meeting may be recorded for minute-taking purposes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2025-2026 has been my first year in the role as president and I have greatly enjoyed meeting with more members of our association and learning more about the inner workings of KRA. It has been a season of several challenges, with the dissolution of the Western Region Ringette Association, and the increasing centralization of many association policies, procedures, and activities within Ringette Ontario.

Navigating these sometimes-choppy waters is a massive undertaking, and is something that requires us all to work together, pulling in the same direction. I'm glad to say that across KRA and the greater ringette community we have faced these challenges together, with a shared goal - providing opportunities for kids to learn, develop their skills, and love this amazing sport of ringette.

Integral to the success of each and every season are the contributions of our volunteers. I would like to draw your attention to KRA's Board of Directors and key volunteers. These people spend a significant amount of time behind the scenes organizing our season; securing ice, updating RAMP, creating teams, finding coaches, planning events, tracking our finances, and generally working to promote and grow the sport of ringette. Please give these people a high-five or a thank you when you see them at the rink.

I would also like to say an enormous thank you to two board members that are 'retiring' after this year's AGM. Both Nancy Holmes and Brian Kettles have served as president, as well as held many other roles within KRA. Their collective contributions have grown our association and provided leadership during very challenging times. I would also like to thank outgoing board members Jess Ward and Dave Kudsia, as well as key volunteer Natalie Piggot for their important contributions to KRA. Thank you all for stepping up and helping to make ringette in Kitchener happen!

The 2025/2026 Executive

President: Peter Johnson

Coaching Director: Meg Pearse

Communications: Nancy Holmes

Registrar: Lee-Anne Hoch

Ice Scheduler: Jeff Schlager

Provincial Convenor: Jessica Ward

Marketing Director: Katherine Akins

Vice President: Denise Totzke

Treasurer: David Kudsia

Past President: Brian Kettles

Secretary: Neil Murray

Events Coordinator: Sam Laban

Regional Convenor: Cole Allen

Key Volunteers Positions

Referee in Chief: Stewart Saunderson

Minor Officials Coordinator: Natalie Piggott

Bingo Coordinator: Connie McFatrige

Golden Ring Chair: Andrea Demelo

Social Media Coordinator: Katharine Akins

Equipment Manager: Amanda Fendley

IT: Neil Murray

Player Development: Lindsay Winter

The Future of KRA

Looking forward to the 2026-2027 season (and beyond), there are a number of pressing challenges that KRA will need to face. The most notable of these is that we have to achieve a balanced budget. The board has always advocated for the minimum increase in player fees necessary and have been very prudent with managing our major cost - ice rental fees. However, the rising costs of several core elements of our program has caught up with us. The board budget subcommittee will be able to discuss these challenges in more detail, however the result is that player registration fees for next season will show a notable increase.

A second area of challenge is the continued need to grow the sport, in terms of number of players, but also in volunteers to support the activities of the teams and the association as well. Across many associations, the need for more players at a young age is critical. To help grow the next generation of ringette players, we ran several Come Try Ringette events this past season, and we need to continue to build on that success. Please do your best to promote ringette with your friends and family, encourage people to attend one of the Come Try Ringette events at their local association. Recruiting players is one challenge, but KRA at times struggles with volunteer recruitment. Without volunteers, KRA cannot run at all. We ask that you consider volunteering your time with KRA to help us continue to provide the opportunity for all players to play the sport they love.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this season. I am sure that you all have your most cherished memories, and that, as with all minor sports, these range from the thrill of a tournament win, to the heartbreak of a close loss, to goofy times at the rink with teammates, to frustrations borne of facing a seemingly insurmountable challenge. I know that my players have faced these feelings (and more!), and that through these experiences they have become better athletes, teammates, and better people. And that, for me, is the best part of ringette.

Hope to see you at the rink next year,

Peter Johnson
President

PROVINCIAL CONVENOR'S REPORT

Once again, this past season we had combined teams with Waterloo Ringette Association, Guelph Ringette Association and Elora Fergus Ringette Association.

Provincial teams were hosted as follows:

Kitchener hosted the following combined teams:

U16A- Trevor Wheeler

U19AA- Meghan Pearse

Waterloo hosted the following combined teams:

U16AA- Becky Branton

U19A- Laura Tunstall

Guelph hosted the following combined team:

U14AA-John Mezenburg

Kitchener hosted a U14A team coached by Cory Bluhm.

U19AA had an incredibly strong season. This team, despite being one of the youngest overall in the province, competed hard in their league and tournament play. Finished second in league with a record of 11 wins 7 losses 2 ties out of 20 games. At the provincial event they came fourth and went on to compete on the national stage representing one of the four Ontario teams.

U16AA also had an incredibly strong season. Similar to the 19 group they placed second in league play with 12 wins 6 losses 2 ties out of the 20 games. They also went to Nationals representing one of the four Ontario teams.

What an incredible experience for both teams representing the Kitchener Waterloo Ringette associations.

Next season Kitchener will be hosting a combined team with the three organizations at:

U19AA- Meghan Pearse

We want to thank all our provincial coaches for the amazing and tireless work they put into the athletes on their teams and I congratulate our rep teams on their success that they had this past season.

Jess Ward

KRA Provincial Convenor

REGIONAL CONVENOR'S REPORT

KRA continues to have a strong Regional program. We continue to have players from other associations coming to KRA looking for a place to play this great sport. We had a team at every level this season, something no associations in close proximity to us can say. For our Fun programs we had 1 team at Fun 1, 2 teams at Fun 2 and 2 teams at Fun 3. We had 1 team at U12, U14, U16 and U19. It's encouraging to see the number of players at the younger age divisions and our come try ringette sessions continue to bring new players to ringette. This is a result of the continued recruitment by Sam Laban, our Events Coordinator.

Multiple teams earned medals at the LORL Year End Championship, with U19 earning gold, U16 earning silver and Fun 3 - Verhoeve earning silver. We made several player adjustments before the season started, with some players playing as overagers and some as underagers where appropriate. The decisions made resulted in successful seasons for all players and also helped ensure we could host regional ringette at all age groups.

For those U19 aged players who have aged out at the end of this season, we wish you good luck in the future and hopefully you all continue to play this great sport!

All of the team and player successes are a result of the ability of our coaches to help the players improve their skills, enjoy the game of ringette and become a cohesive team. I would like to thank all of our coaches, managers and bench staff at the Regional level for their time and efforts. Without your commitment and dedication we wouldn't have a Regional program.

I want to thank all of the parents and fans of our Regional teams for your continued support of this great sport. I encourage all of you to continue to show positive support to our coaches, players and referees when attending games in the future. I have heard from many different players they are more in love with and committed to playing ringette after this season than in prior seasons. This is so wonderful to hear!

This was my first year as the Regional Convenor for KRA. It was a great opportunity to help continue the success of the Regional program and I definitely learned a lot. I have a great appreciation for all of the hard work and tireless effort board members do behind the scene to ensure Kitchener has a successful Ringette Association. I look forward to continuing in my role as Regional Convenor and ensuring the interests of players are always put first.

Cole Allen
Regional Convener

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

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The 2025-2026 season turned out to be a great full season with tournaments, clinics and other great activities for our association

Registration

KRA saw a total of 227 KRA home association players and 88 staff registered.

17 players were released to another association for the season,

24 players transferred into KRA.

Clinics for 2025-2026

36 Preseason shooting clinic

31 Pre season power skating clinic

6 Come try Goalie clinic,

16 Power Skating,

11 Skills and drills clinic

Going forward, we will add Ringette Ontario insurance and membership fees as a secondary charge at registration and this will be added to our players' association fees. This will come across as an increase to KRA fees, while it's a combination of our fees and Ringette Ontario Insurance/membership fees.

Credit Refunds

Any family can request their credit to be refunded by their method of payment at any time if you do not wish to retain this credit. There is a \$5.75 charge for e transfer refund and there is also a 3% fee for credit card refunds. These fees cover our associated fees from the bank and/or credit card provider.

Credit Card Surcharge

Players registered will have noticed a 3% surcharge for credit card payments. This will continue going forward to help recover the processing fees charges by our provider. E-transfer payment is ALWAYS welcomed, and encouraged, and does not have this surcharge. Just remember to include the NAME of the player. E transfer payments are manually updated in RAMP by our treasurer so will not show on your account immediately. See you at the rinks!

Thank you

Lee-Anne Hoch

KRA Registrar

COACHING DIRECTOR REPORT

The 2025-2026 season was, overall, successful. This season not only saw a number of new volunteers entering coaching positions but returning volunteers that continued to grow the skills within our membership. This season, we, also continued to strengthen our working relationship with Waterloo and Guelph creating opportunities to host both AA and A level teams at each level. Our coaching applications were completed and submitted using our online form again this year.

From a provincial perspective, we had one AA team and two A teams hosted in Kitchener this year - U14, U16 and U19. All teams were equipped with coaches that have a multitude of experience in this sport either as a player, coach, ref or all of the above. These teams were a joint effort with Waterloo (and Guelph for AA) and coaching selection was done as a combined effort between associations, with interviews being held by a combined committee with representation from all associations.

We were also able to contribute to the hosting of one AA team and one A team in Waterloo (U19, U16) and one AA team in Guelph (U14). As with the teams hosted by Kitchener, coaching selection was a combined effort and we saw many qualified and experienced coaches filling these positions – some of whom were Kitchener coaches, taking positions in Waterloo. We saw great success within our provincial programs, seeing a U19AA and U16AA National attendance, speaking to the development of our players.

In addition to the Provincial teams hosted, we were incredibly fortunate enough to be able to host at least one regional team at every level, hosting two at FUN 2 and at FUN 3. Some incredible coaches returned with us this season to coach a number of our regional teams. We also had some volunteers step up and move into coaching positions where we were struggling to find some. It's important to note that without our many coaching volunteers, we aren't able to host the teams that we do and we're always looking for new individuals to step into this role. Finding new volunteers for these positions has been increasingly difficult within the last few seasons. Despite our struggles, we had some incredibly successful teams within our regional field at our 2026 Regionals, many of whom brought home medals and represented KRA incredibly well.

In total, we had roughly 60 volunteers in coaching or supporting positions with our association this season. A number of these coaches were equipped with the necessary qualifications needed to coach at the level they were placed in and several successfully completed upgrades to their qualifications.

A coaching survey was released to membership to complete in order to provide feedback on their child(ren)'s coaches. These survey results have been reviewed, giving the opportunity to provide valuable feedback to some of our current coaches and allowing commentary to be provided to our coaching committees to assist in coaching selection for the 2026-2027 season. Further feedback will continue to be provided to our existing coaches using these results.

Meghan Pearse
KRA Coaching Director

EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT

KRA events are a way to celebrate with existing players and families, and also an opportunity to bring new people into the sport. If you came to an event this year, I hope you had fun.

The biggest addition to the events calendar this year was the end of season gala. More than 200 people attended from across every team, and players more than lived up to the “dress to express” remit. The goal was for an event that appealed across age ranges (recent end of season events tended to appeal to younger players). We also wanted an event that would reinforce to our players that their dedication matters and that our community values their involvement in sport. We heard lots of positive feedback that suggests we met those goals. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped out - from decorations, to DJs, from serving food to MC'ing. Special thanks to Kathy and Colleen for organizing all the food.

Attracting new kids and families to ringette is a critical part of events. We continue to host four Come Try Ringette events per season (2 in September 2023, 1 during the Winter holidays, and 1 in Spring), combined with running gym ringette sessions in schools. Senior players and coaches ran events in their own schools this year, which was terrific. We're seeing some growth in the F.U.N. program so these efforts are paying off. We rely on families to help build connections with schools, so please continue to contact me (events@kitcheneringette.ca) if you think your school would host us an “intro to ringette” day.

Team photos went very smoothly this year, which was a relief after challenges in previous years. Christine from Straight Thru photography will be our photographer again next year.

Lastly, all the events rely heavily on the time, energy and enthusiasm of KRA volunteers - a huge thank you to all of you who helped out this year. We couldn't do it without you.

Sam Laban
Events Coordinator

MARKETING DIRECTOR REPORT

This season focused on promoting the association, celebrating our athletes and volunteers, and increasing engagement across our communication platforms. Through social media, community outreach, and consistent branding, we worked to strengthen awareness of our programs and build excitement throughout the year.

Highlights from the Season

Shared regular updates, game results, tournament highlights, and association announcements across our social media platforms.

Celebrated player achievements, coach appointments, volunteer recognition, and team successes throughout the season.

Promoted registration, evaluations, tryouts, and special events to help increase participation and community involvement.

Continued to build engagement with families through timely communication and visual content.

Supported teams by creating and sharing promotional graphics and event information.

Helped maintain a positive and consistent association presence within the community.

Successfully sold the remaining Wildcats jibbitz inventory during the season.

Launched a very successful Jellycat ringette stuffie campaign, which generated strong interest and support from families and players across the association.

Created a partnership with a local apparel company to launch an online Wildcats Store, offering branded shirts, hoodies, hats, and jackets for players, families, and supporters.

Looking Ahead

Next season, we hope to explore adding additional items to the Wildcats apparel store and plan to reopen the store in both the fall and winter seasons to continue offering apparel and merchandise opportunities to our association families and supporters.

Thank You

A sincere thank you to our coaches, volunteers, board members, players, and families for contributing content, photos, updates, and support throughout the season. Your involvement helps showcase the spirit and success of our association.

Katherine Akins
Marketing Director

FINANCIAL REPORTS

BALANCE SHEET

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Current Assets			
Main	\$77,902	\$50,663	\$27,239
Bingo Bank Account	\$1,138	\$35,108	-\$33,970
Raffle Bank Account	\$522	\$9,235	-\$8,713
eTransfer Bank Account	\$0	\$761	-\$761
Undeposited Funds	\$2,982	\$0	\$2,982
Total Cash	<u>\$82,544</u>	<u>\$95,767</u>	<u>-\$13,223</u>
Receivables	\$23,752	\$1,852	\$21,900
Prepaid Expenses	\$4,528	\$4,868	-\$340
Total Current Assets	<u>\$28,280</u>	<u>\$6,720</u>	<u>\$21,560</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$110,824</u>	<u>\$102,487</u>	<u>\$8,337</u>
Current Liabilities			
Deferred Revenue	\$5,269	\$9,444	-\$4,175
Other Payables	\$33,303	\$5,873	\$27,430
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>\$38,572</u>	<u>\$15,317</u>	<u>\$23,255</u>
RETAINED EARNINGS			
Retained Earnings	\$87,170	\$96,797	-\$9,627
Current Earnings / (Loss)	-\$14,918	-\$9,627	-\$5,291
Total Retained Earnings	<u>\$72,252</u>	<u>\$87,170</u>	<u>-\$14,918</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$110,824</u>	<u>\$102,487</u>	<u>\$8,337</u>

Unaudited

INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUE	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Operating Revenue			
Registration Fees	\$134,378	\$117,160	\$17,218
Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Sales	<u>\$134,378</u>	<u>\$117,160</u>	<u>\$17,218</u>
Other Revenue			
Bingo Revenue	\$6,933	\$10,269	-\$3,336
Golden Ring Tournament	\$13,945	\$15,671	-\$1,726
Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$11,718	\$12,484	-\$766
Total Other Revenue	<u>\$32,596</u>	<u>\$38,424</u>	<u>-\$5,828</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$166,974</u>	<u>\$155,584</u>	<u>\$11,390</u>
EXPENSE			
Program Costs			
Ice Rentals	\$108,283	\$107,162	\$1,121
Referees & Minor Officials	\$12,610	\$11,608	\$1,002
Equipment & Jerseys	\$2,143	\$2,541	-\$398
Membership Fees	\$24,263	\$20,411	\$3,852
Bench Staff & Volunteer Expense	\$9,510	\$5,071	\$4,439
Player Development Costs	\$15,399	\$8,353	\$7,046
Total Programs Cost	<u>\$172,208</u>	<u>\$155,146</u>	<u>\$17,062</u>
General & Admin. Expenses			
Accounting & Legal	\$0	\$0	\$0
Marketing	\$452	\$800	-\$348
Office Expenses	\$1,698	\$1,183	\$515
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,035	\$2,632	-\$1,597
Storage & Web	\$4,094	\$1,569	\$2,525
Events Expenses	\$2,405	\$1,224	\$1,181
Photography expenses	\$0	\$2,657	-\$2,657
Total General & Admin. Expenses	<u>\$9,685</u>	<u>\$10,065</u>	<u>-\$380</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$181,892</u>	<u>\$165,211</u>	<u>\$16,681</u>
NET INCOME	<u>-\$14,918</u>	<u>-\$9,627</u>	<u>-\$5,291</u>

Unaudited