

The

REF-O-GRAM

September 2009

Chairman's Report.....	2
Regional Co-ordinator Reports.....	3
My First Provincial Championships.....	6
My First National Championships.....	6
My First World Championships.....	7
Officiating News.....	8
Officiating Evaluators.....	10



Ontario Ringette Association's Officiating Newsletter

Welcome back. The summer is almost over and it's time to start thinking about heading to the rink. It's time to open up your casebook, review your old clinic material and refresh your rules knowledge. It's time to clean your uniform, get your skates sharpened and change your laces. But most of all, it's time to start having fun.

As this year is not a rule change year, there will not be refresher clinics this fall. There will be Level 2/3 clinics scheduled in your region, should you wish to take one and there will be a Regional level evaluator clinic held in Toronto. If you are interested in attending either, please contact your Regional Co-ordinator and check the officiating website for dates and times.

<http://www.ontario-ringette.com/officiating>

This past summer four new members joined the Officiating Development Committee (ODC). In April, Margareth Peressutti replaced Jeff Evans as the Southern Region Co-ordinator. In August, Jeff Graham replaced George Seymour in the Northeast Region, Amy Murray replaced Karen Meek in the Central Region, and Marie Shinmoto replaced Laura Knowles in the Eastern Region. All four new members bring a vast amount of experience and knowledge to the committee and each will help guide the program towards the future.

As with any additions, there are always subtractions. I would be amiss if I did not thank Jeff, George, Karen and Laura for the amount of work and dedication they provided to the committee and their individual region. Each of them provided their region with strong leadership and a strong voice on the committee and each will be truly missed. A special thanks goes out to Karen Meek, who spent seventeen years on the committee representing the Central Region. Seventeen years as a volunteer in any position is an amazing feat. Her dedication to the Central Region has made it one of the "hot spots" for talented officials in our Province.

In addition to the changes here in Ontario, this past summer, Ringette Canada selected Laura Knowles to be the new Chair of their officiating development committee. For those of you who do not know Laura, her attention to detail and structure will make her a valuable asset to both Ringette Canada and all Provincial Associations moving forward. A special thanks goes out to Iris Todd, who chaired Ringette Canada's officiating committee over the past four years. Iris was instrumental in keeping officiating together through one of the most difficult and rigorous rule change sessions our sport has ever seen.

Last season, many of our officials stepped up and attained certain goals. At the Provincial A's in Gloucester, there were six true rookies who attended their first provincial event and three "psudo" rookies who returned after many years away. Congratulations go out to Kelly Campbell, Sam Campbell, Rob Ellis, Tony Hendriks(z), Gerald Lamoureux, Nick Malezis, Lyndsey Matsumura, Robyn Seitz, and Evan Sharp

for their accomplishments in being selected to attend and surviving the "rookie initiation" ceremony.

At the Provincial AA's in London, there were five rookies. Congratulations go out to Shannon Carey, Melissa Findlay, Alex Hanes, Darcy Hodgson and Jessica Lalonde for their accomplishment in becoming part of the officiating team for the premier event in our province.

At the national level, Jeff Evans and Amy Murray successfully represented Ontario as rookies at the Canadian Ringette Championships in Charlottetown, P.E.I. Their addition to the crew increased the number of participating officials from Ontario to eleven. Amy and Jeff both proved that without a doubt, hard work pays off. Their dedication to perfecting their game over the past few years was second to none.

At the international level, Kevin Lee represented Ontario at the World Club Championships in Sault Ste. Marie last November, where he officiated the final game. This past summer, Rob Drury and Karen Meek represented Canada at the U19 World Ringette Championships in Prague, Czech Republic. All three should be congratulated on being selected to officiate at the highest level possible; World Championship calibre events. These three officials are amongst the very best in the world.

This coming season will be a busy one. Leading up to the Ontario Winter Games next March, there will be three AAA Challenge Cup events held in North Bay (October 16-18), St. Mary's (November 27-29) and Kingston (February 14-16). In addition, there will be four provincial ranking tournaments held across the province (Cambridge, Whitby, Guelph and Gloucester). Combined with these events, there are over forty (40) scheduled tournaments across the province, from Atikokan to Ottawa. These tournaments will provide many opportunities for all officials to travel and experience ringette away from home. I highly suggest you take the opportunity and try officiating at tournaments you don't normally participate at.

On a final note, this report would not be the same without reminding you to make sure you are registered by September 15. If your registration form and payment are not received by ORA by that date, you are no longer eligible to officiate. Please ensure that your Police Records Check is also up to date. If you are eighteen years of age or older, a valid PRC is part of the registration process.

Have fun and enjoy the season.

Brent Bunting
Chairman Officiating Development Committee
bbunting@strongtie.com

SOUTHERN REGION

I hope everyone had a great SUMMER and is looking forward to the 2009/2010 season! Before you know it, you will be receiving calls or emails from your local RIC to ref games, dusting off your equipment, and making sure you have everything you need for the season.

For those who do not know, Jeff Evans has stepped down from the Southern Region Co-ordinator position. Do not fear, he will not be gone completely. Jeff will continue to manage the POD program.

For those of you do not know me, my name is Margareth Peressutti. I am your new Southern Region Co-ordinator. I have been involved in the sport for many years, starting out as a player. Remember the terry cloth uniforms? Well, I have one in my closet along with a few coloured sticks. How the sport has evolved! After I stopped playing, I decided to become an official, and that was it, I never went back. I look forward to my new position and hope to be just as good at it as Jeff. What BIG shoes I have to fill!

I would like to take a moment to congratulate the following people on their achievements; Lori Grant - Provincial Official of the Year, Robyn Seitz - Southern Region Official of the Year, Jeff Evans and Amy Murray on being asked to attend the CRC's in P.E.I., and Karen Meek and Rob Drury for being asked to attend U-19 in Prague. Great job!

Just a reminder for anyone 18 years of age or older, you will need to have a current Police Records Check to be able to ref.

We will be holding the following clinics:

Sept. 20 - Level 1 – Mississauga, Tomken Arena, 9-5 pm
Oct. 4 – Level 2/3 – Mississauga, Tomken Arena, 9-5 pm

I hope to see you at some point throughout the season. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great season.

Margareth Peressutti
Southern Region Officiating Co-ordinator
mcp@mountaincable.net

NORTHEAST / NORTHWEST REGION

Hopefully, everyone has enjoyed the late summer we had this year and you are now ready to take to the ice. I would officially like to introduce myself as the new Regional Officiating Co-ordinator. My name is Jeff Graham, and I have been living in North Bay since August 2008. I am a true northerner, as I spent much of my life in North Bay; however my job sent me to Southern Ontario for the past 10 years. I am very excited to be back in the North and am willing to work

hard in my new role. I began officiating in Alberta 1994, and returned to Ontario in 1999. I am currently a Level 4 official, a Community evaluator and an instructor.

It was a pleasure to meet many of you last year, beginning with traveling to Atikokan for their tournament that ran November 15th and 16th. It was great to meet such friendly people who welcomed me into their community. I was able to teach the Refresher clinic to the approximate 10 referees in the Northwest Region, and evaluate many of them throughout the weekend. There were some nice improvements in ability and it was good to see the changes. I realize it has been very difficult to have someone evaluate and work with the referees in the three associations of Thunder Bay, Atikokan and Dryden. I hope we can continue to improve the enhancement of referees as well as recruit new refs in the coming seasons.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Northeast Regional Championships in Timmins, back in March of 2009. I met many new faces and great people while I was evaluating that weekend. There is great potential in the ability of referees from Timmins, Sudbury, Iroquois Falls, Sault St. Marie and North Bay. I hope many of you continue to excel your skills this year by attending the few tournaments offered in the region.

On a humorous note, I would like to congratulate James LaVictoire for winning the "Boner" Award given to the person with the biggest "bonehead" move of the tournament. Without getting into details, James had a little too much to eat in his pre-game nourishment, which affected his Belle assignment. Just ask anyone that was there for the full story. It's one of the better ones that I have ever heard! Again, thank you everyone for a great Regional's, I was quite impressed with the abilities on ice and the professionalism off ice.

This year, we have ten associations in the Northeast and three associations in the Northwest. There will be clinics in your area to attend, and I hope that people will take advantage of these. The tentative clinics dates are:

Sept. 26 – Level 1 – North Bay
Sept. 27 – Level 1 – Sault Ste. Marie
Oct. 4 – Level 2/3 – North Bay
Oct. 11 – Level 1 – Timmins

Please check the Officiating section of the ORA website for the full clinic details.

There will be a few tournaments in the regions to attend, including Atikokan, Iroquois Falls and West Ferris. Check the tournaments section on the ORA website for further information.

I am glad to announce that two of our officials (one from NW and one from NE) will be participating in the POD program. Justina Swan from Thunder Bay and Alexandra Parker from

North Bay will join the team of other POD members where they will work on their skills in the coming two seasons. For those of you that don't know what the POD entails, it is a program to help Level 1 or 2 officials better their skills and attain a potential Level 3 status through attending tournaments in Southern Ontario where Regional Evaluators can watch and work with them.

Also of note, as part of the Officiating Budget of the ORA, the outreach program has funds available to help officials from our Regions, attend tournaments in Southern or Eastern Ontario. If you are interested in going to a tournament in the Toronto or Ottawa area and wish to apply for a travel subsidy, please contact me to get the ball rolling. All applications must be in to the office by October 31st, 2009. The funding will pay for either a plane ticket or your mileage traveled by car. You cannot be traveling with a team in order to receive the funding.

On a final note, all officials 18 years of age or older must have a valid Police Records Check or they will not be able to go on ice. This is a rule across all sports for volunteers. This will be due with your registration by September 15th. ORA is looking into an online program called mybackcheck.com for a fee of \$25.00. Contact your local association for more details. Should you receive a cheaper price or a free police check, you will be able to submit this with your registration as well. Note that your PRC is valid for three years.

I wish you the best this season, and I look forward to seeing all of you around the rinks. Please don't hesitate to e-mail or call me should you have any questions that arise during the upcoming season.

Jeff Graham
Northeast Region Officiating Co-ordinator
jeff.graham@cogeco.ca

EASTERN REGION

I hope everyone has had a great summer and is willing to wrap their brains around getting back on the ice. For those of you who aren't aware, I have been handed the torch from Laura Knowles and am the new Eastern Region Officiating Co-ordinator. Laura has moved on to become the Chair of Ringette Canada's Officiating Development Committee. I wish her all the best in her new position where she is certain to be of great benefit to all.

I would like to congratulate Jessica Lalonde on being named Regional Official of the year for 2008/2009. Jessica had a great season capped with an excellent performance at AA Provincials where she officiated the Tween final.

As this season is a non-rule change year (big sigh of relief was heard from all), we will be holding a Level 2/3 clinic and at least one Level 1 clinic. One of my priorities for the region

this year is to work with our many level 1 officials, particularly those with some experience, to help them meet the requirements for upgrade to level 2.

I would like to thank Patricia Burke and Michelle Bainbridge who will be continuing to do the assigning for the region. Please be sure to check your e-mail regularly and accept or decline games as quickly as possible.

This season, we will be implementing a system for timelier reporting of match and misconduct penalties to the leagues. If an official assesses a match or misconduct penalty, he/she must report the circumstances within 24 hours. A form will be posted on the Eastern Region website and on the Arbitrator. This form can be filled in and submitted on-line or printed and faxed in. Further details will be pending.

I would like to remind everyone that if you have any questions or concerns, your first line of communication should be through your association referee-in-chief (RIC). The RIC's are there to help you, please use them.

Have a great season everyone. See you around the rinks.

Marie Shinmoto
Eastern Region Officiating Co-ordinator
bunkyii@rogers.com

CENTRAL REGION

Welcome back! I am happy to have taken over the position as Central Region Co-ordinator from Karen Meek. I would like to thank Karen for dedicating 17 years of hard work to this position. Karen has been a mentor to me on the ice for many years, and I am looking forward to continuing to learn from her, not just as an official, but in this new position as well.

We will be offering two clinics this year, and I would like to thank Oshawa Ringette and the Holiday Inn, Oshawa, for providing our meeting rooms, which will really help in keeping our clinic costs low. The clinics are scheduled as follows:

Level 1 – Saturday, October 17, Oshawa, Holiday Inn, 9-5 pm
Level 2/3 – Saturday, September 26, Oshawa, Holiday Inn, 9-5 pm

This season, we will continue to assign an evaluator to every Central Region official. This has proven to be a very important and successful endeavor in the development of our referees. An evaluator will be contacting you at some point this season to set up a date where they can watch you on-ice and provide feedback.

I would like to congratulate the following officials for their achievements last season:

- Canadian Ringette Championships – Robert Drury, Janyce Gunn and Karen Meek
- Eastern Canadian Tween Championships – Pauline Haarmeyer
- Provincial ‘A’ and ‘AA’s – Dan Bartley, Kelly Campbell, Sam Campbell, Robert Drury, Melissa Findlay, Janyce Gunn, Pauline Haarmeyer, Lyndsey Matsumura, Karen Meek, Becky Murray, Mark Renkiewicz and Sue Shantz
- Regionals – Emma Bragg-Smith, Kelly Campbell, Sam Campbell, Sierra Campbell, Gavin Clark, Cara Coghlan, Melissa Findlay, Erica Gaffney, Mike Geeson, Samantha Martin, Lyndsey Matsumura, Kent Missons, Bianca Novielli and Maddy Snowden

I would also like to extend a special mention and congratulations to both Robert Drury and Karen Meek who represented not only Central Region, but also Ontario and Canada at the 2009 World Junior Ringette Championships in Prague, Czech Republic, this past August. They are a tremendous example of how hard work, dedication, and ambition can be incredibly rewarding.

I encourage each one of you to set goals for yourself this season. Even a small goal is one stepping-stone towards your development as an official. I am certainly here to help each one of you do that! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. Good luck this season and please remember to HAVE FUN!

Amy Murray

Central Region Officiating Co-ordinator
amykmurray@hotmail.com

“If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else” – *Yogi Berra*

WESTERN REGION

Welcome back! It's hard to believe how quickly the summer passes. It doesn't seem that long ago that the season ended.

I want to thank everyone that helped out this year at the Western Regionals. What a huge success! You all went over and above and I definitely appreciate the help.

Congratulations to Kevin Knight, Western Region Official of the Year. Kevin has been the local RIC in London for several years and has worked extremely hard over the past several seasons to develop not only himself but also the London Ringette Association.

Congratulations to all of the Western officials who participated in the Provincial A's, AA's and Nationals. You

worked extra hard all season to get there and you deserved the recognition.

Before you're able to get started this year, you must be registered. It is your responsibility to make sure that you either fill out the paper work and mail it in with payment or give it to your local association Referee-in-Chief. Information and details can be found on the ORA web site under “officiating”.

If your goal is to attain a position on the list of eligible officials for Provincials, then you need to travel to some tournaments early in the season in order to be seen. If you are having difficulties getting into a tournament or don't know who to contact, send me an email, and I will help you. A reminder to those of you who are 18 or older, you must have a valid Police Records Check done by November 15th. Police Record checks are only valid for 3 years, so if you are not sure if yours is still valid, either contact your local RIC or the ORA office. Without the PRC, you run the risk of not being eligible for Provincials or Regionals.

Clinic information will be available on the Western Website, at www.wrra.ca. Clinics are not mandatory this year as this is an upgrade season, but if you are looking to move up you will need to attend a 2/3 clinic and we will only be hosing 2 in the region, so please make sure you register online early.

Last season our Western Region Officiating Travel Program was a huge success. We provided officials for over 300 scheduled “A” and “AA” games within the region. This system received lots of positive feedback from both the officials and the coaches; we will be using it again this year. This means that I will be assigning refs to travel to games in order to make sure that there are qualified officials at every “A” or “AA” game in the region. If you wish to participate in this program you can register at the western website or contact me directly at t.tracey@rogers.com. Your current rank must be 2B and you must be willing to travel in order to participate.

As always we will try to have an evaluator at every major event in Western Region. If you are interested in being looked at please contact me via the website and I will try to arrange it. Unfortunately we did not get to see everyone at Regionals last season so I know some of you are still looking for feedback.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you on the ice this year, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need some help.

Have a fantastic season!

Tania Pettitt-Tracey
Western Region Officiating Co-ordinator
t.tracey@rogers.com

My First Provincial Championships*By Sam Campbell*

Wow, what a year it's been! I saw a lot of ice this year in what has turned out to be an awesome experience from the start at the Oshawa tournament in November, to the finish at the Ontario Provincial A Championships in Gloucester.

Before I relate my Provincial experience, I would like to give some background of how I got there in the first place. At the onset of the 2008-09 season, I was asked to take part in the POD program. The Provincial Officiating Development program is designed to mentor officials that demonstrate the ability and desire to develop themselves as officials. The end game is to be able to ref at a higher caliber of play with the potential of officiating at a provincial event. I accepted the placement in the POD program and made it my personal goal to do everything I could to make it to the Provincials. To do this, it meant rarely saying no to any game assignments and attending as many tournaments as possible. All totaled, this meant officiating 190+ games. Was it all worth it? YES, every second of it.

I earned a spot on the officiating team at the Provincial A's, and what a team it was. It is hard to describe the sense of accomplishment I felt when I got the call from Brent asking if I was interested in attending, but I calmly accepted and then I called everyone I thought would remotely care. Special thanks to Karen Meek for ignoring her call display and picking up the phone.

Participating at Provincials turned out to be way more than I could have imagined. You always hear the stories of the officials that have been before but until you're there you don't have a real sense of what goes on. There are lots of antics, to say the least, and being a Rookie you find yourself in the cross hairs from day one. Initiation is a big part of the event. If you get there, a word of advice, DO NOT resist. Resistance is futile. Enough said on that.

Of course, the meat and potatoes of the event are the games. These teams come to play and play they do. From the first whistle, they go flat out, non-stop. Every game has a winner, so overtime is a common occurrence. Every game has a supervisor watching as well, so the feedback you receive after the games is abundant. Unlike regular tournaments, the officials are sequestered at their own hotel and the days always end with a wrap up meeting, where the next day's assignments are handed out. The nightly meeting is critical because this is where we find out how we did that day as a team, and most



importantly, this is when we recap the day's most glorious wipeouts. That's right; if you hit the ice don't even try to hide it. It is going to be relived and it's going to be named and if it is the best one of the weekend you're going home with a trophy (the Thomson Cup).

For me, the highlight of the weekend was earning a spot on the Petite gold medal game. We were at the nightly meeting and Brent was announcing the finals and he said my name and then Lyndsey Matsamura. I recall thinking great for Lyndsey, and then it hit me, I was also selected. Jeff Evans described my expression as a deer in the headlights. It felt like a mix of over flowing pride and "wholly crap now what am I going to do?" It was amazing. Even more amazing was reffing the game. Finals are always exciting but a Provincial Petite gold medal game has that extra "blow the roof off the building" fan base that makes it all the more exciting. The icing on the cake was being able to do the game with another fellow Rookie, Lyndsey Matsamura. Lyndsey and I reffed together a fare bit over the season and always had a great time on the ice and worked well together. I'm sure you can all relate to the feeling of being on the ice with total confidence that the other side of the rink is covered and so is yours, if you need it. That is exactly the feeling I had in that gold medal final as well as every other game I did the entire weekend. Every official there was absolutely "top shelf." It is astounding how much I learned from everyone.

In summary, if you are a ref wanting the Provincial experience, let nothing stand in your way. Make the commitment, get out to some tournaments, get seen, and get evaluated. While you're at the tournaments, between your games, hang around the ref room and just listen to the others talk about the games they just did. I learn as much or more off the ice as I do on the ice. There is some hard work involved but the rewards are worth every bit of it. Hopefully I will be able to attend future events but 2009 Provincial A's will always be my first and the one I will remember most.

My First Canadian Ringette Championships*By Amy Murray*

"Life is competition." I have a shirt, which reads this exact quotation. I remember buying it because it not only encompasses my outlook on life, but I think it has become the reality of the world in which we live. On a daily basis, individuals battle to achieve superiority. Whether it's to land an amazing job or be selected for an elite team, most times, in order to achieve your goal, someone else has to miss out on theirs. Too often, we equate competition only to winning and losing. However, there is another kind of competition, which is too often overlooked, but equally important. It's an individual competition where the only opponent is you. It involves effort to make yourself better, seeing obstacles as opportunities, learning from setbacks, and choosing to let your attitude overcome circumstance. The outcome is not based on winning or losing, but on personal bests and improvement.

As I was on the plane, preparing to officiate at my first Canadian Ringette Championships, I wasn't sure what type of competition I would find. I knew that everyone would be vying to officiate a final game, but how would they go about doing it? Would we work as a team or would the focus be only on individual achievement? Would I be accepted as a capable official or would I be looked at as an outsider? As I arrived at the hotel in Charlottetown, it was clear to me that the focus of the week would be on teamwork.

I felt like a new official as I stepped on the ice for my first game. It was something between extreme nervousness and adrenaline-powered excitement. And as much as I tried to convince myself that it was just another game, I knew that it was not. It's more for the players, more for the coaches, and more for me, as an official. I've never skated so hard in my entire life. I think I spent the first five minutes of the game in awe, trying to take everything in, soaking up my first experience in a way that I would never forget.

There were many thoughts going through my head during that first game. Part of me was worried that I wasn't ready for such an event – did I really deserve to be here? I kept thinking about all the supervisors and evaluators who had helped me along the way and believed that I could get here. I wanted to meet their expectations and not let them down. I wanted to make them proud. My first game went very well and as the week went on, I began to feel more and more relaxed on the ice.

What was amazing to me however, was not the on-ice events, it was the stuff that took place off the ice. After my first game, I can honestly say that each and every official took the time to ask me how it went. This didn't stop as the week went on. They inquired about how I was doing, offered advice, and provided feedback and support that was encouraging and boosted my confidence. They took a genuine interest in me and in my progress as the week went on.

I must admit that I was in tears as I headed to the airport on Sunday morning to return home. I think that it was only during that moment, realizing the week was over, that I fully understood how much I had wanted this goal. Part of it was a feeling of nostalgia, knowing that my first Nationals were over, and like many firsts, that I would never get that experience back. Part of it was a feeling of fear, in hopes that I had officiated well enough to be asked back next year. Part of it was expectation, in focusing on my next officiating goals. Part of it was gratitude, for all the people who had helped me get here, knowing that although I



could never thank them all, their roles, both big and small, were instrumental. Part of it was relief, in knowing that all the sacrifices I had made to achieve this goal, were absolutely worth it.

But perhaps the biggest factor in my emotional drive to the airport was saying goodbye to all the officials that I had grown to know and respect throughout the week. Even the Ontario officials, who I had known for some time, were revealed to me in a new light, both as leaders and friends. It's nice to be surrounded by people who share common goals and a common direction. They understand and appreciate your aspirations, successes, and disappointments, in a way that no one else can. It became apparent to me here that as a group, we had in fact achieved that second type of competition, where we weren't competing against each other, but competing against ourselves. We all wanted that "big" game on the final day, but not at the expense of someone else. When the finals were announced on Friday night, I was amazed at the reactions; there was no negativity. There were heartfelt congratulations and support for the officials who would be representing all of us on ice the following day. And for those of us who didn't receive a final, there was reflection on what could be done to ensure a final for next year.

What I discovered is that officials are generalized into one group. If one referee is successful, we are all successful. On the contrary, if one referee fails, we all fail. We have a very important job as officials, open to much criticism and negativity. It is therefore crucial that we stick together as a team because at the end of the day, when the coaches and players are gone, it is your team that will be there for you. And when we truly use each other to learn, grow, and improve, it is easy to see how one official's success, reflects on us all. No one achieves anything without the aid of someone else.

I think I left this event not only as a better referee, but as a better person as well. I would like to thank everyone who played a part in helping me achieve my goal. Whether you were an evaluator or a fellow referee, you undoubtedly helped me learn. Even though I could never name all of you, know that your role in my growth was appreciated and has not been forgotten. May we continue to learn from each other, work together, and lean on each other, so that we can all achieve our goals and our highest potential!

My First World Championships

By Karen Meek

I first heard about the U19 World Junior Championships while attending a Ringette Canada meeting two years ago. I didn't know any of the details for the event or what the selection process would be; I just knew that I wanted to be there.

For the next two seasons, I committed myself to this dream. I retired from playing, eased off on some of my other obligations and focused solely on making my game better.

It wasn't until the last night of the 2009 Canadian Ringette Championships that I found out that my hard work and determination had paid off. I had actually been asked to officiate my first World event. The excitement that rushed through my body was overwhelming followed by tears (of course) of happiness.

After traveling in France for a few days, I joined Rob Drury and Team Canada East in Munich, Germany. From there, we traveled through Germany, Austria and into the Czech Republic. We followed the same itinerary as the team, which along with meals and hotels, also allowed us to do some touring and sightseeing. We visited Neuschwanstein Castle (AKA, the real Disney Princess Castle) in Fussen and stayed in the most picturesque town called Oberammergau, located at the base of the Alps. In Austria, we toured through a Salt Mine and did a walking tour of Salzburg, where they filmed "The Sound of Music".

Team Canada West met up with our group in Fussen, Germany. Both teams had a chance to hit the ice for practice as well as a pair of exhibition games. This allowed the teams to work out some of their cobwebs, but more importantly, it gave Rob and I an opportunity to rid ourselves of jetlag and reorient ourselves to the former Ringette Canada rules – the rules that we had worked so hard to forget for the last two seasons – that the IRF currently utilizes.

On Monday August 3rd, we were finally headed to the Czech Republic where Rob and I would separate from Team Canada East and join our officiating team at a different hotel. Leslie Ursel, the Director of Officials, met us at our hotel and said that we would meet at 7:45 the next morning. We had arrived late, and the Finnish officials had already gone to bed in anticipation of the first game at 9:30 Tuesday morning.



We met after breakfast for a quick meeting. It was at this point that we were introduced to the Finnish officials (Merja and Risto), received our game assignments for the day, and were briefed on the various differences between the IRF rules and the Ringette Canada rules. It was a little daunting to think that we were about to ref the biggest games of our careers without an opportunity to have employed all of the IRF rules. We literally had to adapt on the fly.

The first block games went quite well. Rob and I were each paired up with a Finnish official; this is how the week would remain formatted, a Fin and a Canadian on every game. Between the two sets of the day's games, there were opening ceremonies. The ceremonies were short and sweet, with a couple of speeches, the national anthems and the traditional player/official oaths. It was the first major event I have ever attended in which I had to read the oath. Thank goodness, I performed the English version.

As the week progressed, we were all getting a better handle on some of the various rules and their application. I enjoyed the challenges of applying the new rules and working with the Finnish officials. The two countries have very different styles, but somewhere along the way, we found some common ground.

We each reffed two games per day and were assigned a stand-by game as well. With the set-up of the schedule, we didn't have much free time to see Prague. So, on the morning of the semi-finals, we booked a city tour and did a little shopping, as the games didn't begin until 4:30 that afternoon.

The semi-finals featured Canada East versus Canada West and Finland White versus Finland Blue, guaranteeing an all Canada/Finland final day. The finals were scheduled for Saturday August 8th. Rob and Merja were assigned the Bronze Medal game, Canada West versus Finland Blue. Risto and I were assigned the Gold Medal game, Canada East versus Finland White. As the National Anthem played, I fought back the tears, but could feel a huge lump forming in my throat. It's quite an incredible feeling, to be standing on the ice prior to the start of a World Championship Final game and to hear your Country's National Anthem being played. It is a feeling that I shall cherish for a very long time.

Shortly after the final game was played and the closing ceremonies were completed, we were back on the bus and headed to Germany. We would depart the next afternoon for home. The whirlwind of a tour was just about over!

This journey was the chance of a lifetime for me. The memories I made and the experiences I shared with the others will live on forever. I don't know where the road leads to in the future, but my love and passion for this game has certainly strengthened.

Forty Years of Officiating and Still Going Strong

If you think that you've officiated for a long time, think again. Last season marked the fortieth year in officiating for long time officials Gerald Lamoureux and Mark Renkiewicz.

Gerald, originally from Sudbury, has done almost everything possible in ringette. He has volunteered at the local and regional level's, officiated at Provincial's, coached at the

CRC's and has been part of Team Ontario for the Canada Winter Games. He is currently the RIC for Markham and continues to officiate at all levels.

Mark, a resident of Bowmanville, has officiated ringette at every possible level. He has participated in the Ontario Winter Games, CRC's, Canada Winter Games, and the World Championships. He has been a mainstay at the Provincial AA Championships since the 1970's and is a mentor to all.

Congratulations to both for forty years of service and counting.



Lorie Grant Headlines Impressive List of Awards Winners

This past summer, Lorie Grant of Kitchener was selected by the Officiating Development Committee as the recipient of the Provincial Official of the Year award. Lorie, who is also an instructor, an evaluator and an official in the NRL had an impressive season, culminating in being selected to officiate the Belle Final at the Canadian Ringette Championships in Charlottetown last April. Congratulations go out to Lorie and the following Regional winners:

- Robyn Seitz – Southern Region
- Sam Campbell – Central Region
- Jessica Lalonde – Eastern Region
- Kevin Knight - Western Region

Jane Larkworthy Receives Award of Merit From Canadian Standards Association

Congratulations go out to Jane Larkworthy of Stratford, who received the Award of Merit from the Canadian Standards Association, in recognition of 20 years of service dedicated to standards development and promotion in the field of sport safety. As Director of Officiating for Ringette Canada, Jane authored, edited and updated virtually every officiating resource material; in particular, she championed a rule change that required players to wear CSA certified ringette face protectors and even brought this message to the international ringette community. Now retired from active officiating, she continues to be involved in ringette as a player and as the

Discipline Chair for a 25-team adult league in southwestern Ontario. She is also a volunteer with Special Olympics Ontario.

National Ringette League Announces Jean-François Ethier as Director of Officials

On September 3rd, the National Ringette League (NRL) announced the appointment of Jean-François Ethier as the league's Director of Officials. This newly created position will begin immediately and Ethier will be responsible for assisting with the development of schedules for officials, conducting evaluations of NRL officials, working with the Ringette Canada Officiating Committee to develop and expand the number of ringette officials in Canada, overseeing disciplinary action for on-ice infractions, and providing input on rule changes and how rules are being administered within the league.

Jean-François Ethier, who was born in Montreal and now lives in Blainville, QC, has over 15 years of officiating experience and has officiated at number of Canadian Ringette Championships. He also serves as the chairman of Ringette Canada's Long Term Officiating Committee and is on Ringette Canada's Officiating Committee.

"I believe the development of officials is very important and I am very happy to be able to fill the role of Director of Officials for the National Ringette League," said Jean-François Ethier. "Within this role, I hope to develop consistency for the league's rules and level of officiating, which will provide new and existing officials with something to strive towards."

Registration Requirements Include Police Records Checks (PRC)

Don't forget, in addition to completing your Officials Registration form and paying your dues, all officials aged eighteen years of age and older are required to have a valid Police Records Check by the November 15th deadline. This is in accordance with ORA's volunteer policy. Each PRC is good for three years. If you are not sure how to get one or what to do with it once you get it, please contact your local RIC or the ORA office. Please note that you will not be permitted to officiate after November 15th without a valid PRC.

New Provisions for Excessive Penalties

Effective immediately, any player that is ejected in the second half of play for accumulating ten minutes or more in a game shall serve a one-game suspension. Note that this rule is specific to Ontario, and does not include tournament games where out of province teams are involved.

New Misconduct Provisions for Ontario

Effective immediately, any misconduct penalty assessed in the second half of regulation time, in overtime or after the game carries a suspension of the next regularly scheduled game. The player/bench staff shall be suspended only from the team for which they received the misconduct penalty. Note that this rule is specific to Ontario, and does not include tournament games where out of province teams are involved. If coaches or players ask you about the length of suspension for any infraction, please direct them to the local G&T representative.

Shoulder Pads Now Mandatory for U16 and Younger Age Divisions

Be aware that for this coming season, it will be mandatory for all players in the U16 and younger divisions, to wear shoulder pads. Players not wearing shoulder pads must be asked to leave the ice and are not permitted to play without them. If a player returns to the ice without shoulder pads, during play, after being asked to leave, they will be assessed a delay of game penalty. Note that this rule is specific to Ontario, and does not include tournament games where out of province teams are involved.

U9 Division Tournament Rules

As of this coming season, all associations hosting a U9 division during a tournament must use the following rules: 50 minutes of game time; 2 (two)-minute buzzer; a maximum of one coach per team on the ice; no touching of the opposition players by the coaches; no double shifting unless the number of players available during that game warrant, and all players are to be used equally in double-shifting; own players should not be physically moved into position by a coach during playing time; coaches may not impede the on-ice official(s). For 2009-2010, the U9 events will be mandated that they have no score posted and all players will receive the same participation awards. Finals or Championship games are not permitted.

Information Update

If your contact information is not correct and / or you did not receive the Ref-O-Gram, please contact the ORA office at:

Ontario Ringette Association
3 Concorde Gate, #207
Toronto, ON. M3C 3N7
416-426-7359

Officiating Evaluators

Community (Level 1/2)

Tara Armstrong – Oshawa
Michelle Bainbridge – Ottawa
Dan Bartley – Ajax
Andre Brisson – Woodstock
Doug Cope – Mississauga
Rob Evans – Richmond Hill
Laurier Gadoury – Timmins
Jeff Graham – North Bay
Lorie Grant – Kitchener
David Hanes – Kingston
Harry Hirsimaki - Sudbury
Andre Labelle – Massey
Andre Lalonde – Ottawa
Geri Lamers – Stayner
Cam Mahy – Stoney Creek
Kerri Mahy – Stoney Creek
Paul McBride – Ottawa
Kent Missons – Oshawa
Denise Pelletier – Kitchener
Lana Philips – Kitchener
Stephanie Renda – Toronto
George Seymour – North Bay
Evan Sharp – Guelph
Miranda Sheppard – London
Brian Sime – Kinburn
Mike Tambeau – Timmins
Chad Weatherall – Ottawa

Regional (Level 3)

Kelly Campbell – Oshawa
Jeff Evans – Richmond Hill
Janyce Gunn – Pickering
Pauline Haarmeyer – Pickering
Rob Hanson – Ottawa
Marie Shinmoto – Ottawa
Wayne Spencer – Sault Ste. Marie
Pat Turcotte – Caledonia

Provincial (Level 4)

Steve Blacklock – Guelph
Brent Bunting – Barrie
Derek Burger – Wellesley
Rob Drury – Whitby
Natalie Fortin – Limoges
Laura Knowles - Ottawa
Danielle Lalonde – Ottawa
Karen Meek – Bowmanville
Tania Pettitt-Tracey – Wellesley
Lynne Phillion - Ottawa

