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WESTMEATH & DISTRICT  
RECREATION ASSOCIATION



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fridays** Darts - 7:00 pm  
\$5.00 –bar open  
Bring your darts

**Every 2nd Tuesday**  
Making Melodies with  
Miss Erica -10 am -  
Westmeath Rec. Hall

**March 4th & 5th - WDRA Winter  
Carnival**

**March 17th** Happy St. Patty's Day

**March 18th** St. Patty's Dinner

**April 26th** WDRA Annual General  
Meeting

## MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

To rent Community Centre Hall :  
613-587-4559/613-587-4838 or email [wdra@nrtco.net](mailto:wdra@nrtco.net)  
Ice bookings: [arenas@whitewaterregion.ca](mailto:arenas@whitewaterregion.ca);  
or call Township office M-F, 8:30 am - 4 pm , ask for Debbie

For Newsletter inquiries:  
Email: [wdranewsletter@nrtco.net](mailto:wdranewsletter@nrtco.net) or call 613-587-4438  
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ENTRIES IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH  
[www.westmeathtoday.ca](http://www.westmeathtoday.ca)



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Saturday: 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

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**St. Patty's Dinner**

**Friday, March 18th, 2022**

Dine-in or Take-Out Available

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Westmeath Hall

119 Synton St., Westmeath

Irish Stew (beef & vegetables)

Vegetarian Stew

Homemade Bread

Assorted Homemade Desserts

Adults \$10 / Children \$7

Sponsored by the WDRA

For more information, contact

[wdra@nrtco.net](mailto:wdra@nrtco.net)



**PUBLIC SKATING**  
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Westmeath & District Recreation Association Winter Carnival March 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2022			
Time	Event	Costs	Location
Friday, March 4th			
7:00-10:00	Darts	\$5.00	Hall
7:00-10:00	Bar Open		Hall
Saturday, March 5 <sup>th</sup> Have some fun, compete for Bragging Rights and Prizes!			
WDRA Kitchen			
7-10:30am	Buffet Breakfast (\$10 Adults / \$7 Children / n/c 4years & under)	As posted	Hall
11:am-2pm	BBQ Lunch	As posted	Outside
11am-8pm	Snacks & Sweets Available	As posted	Hall
Children			
10am-3pm	Crafts		Hall
10:30am	Decorated Cupcake Contest (6 cupcakes) Drop off at hall by 10 a.m. March 5th For 12 years and under		Hall
11:30am	Kids Games – Outside		Outside
Youth and Family			
10:30am	Best Butter Tart Contest (6 tarts) Anyone can enter- drop off by 10 a.m. March 5 <sup>th</sup>		Hall
10:30am	Chili Contest (small pot) Anyone can enter – drop off by 10 a.m. March 5th		Hall
11am	Scavenger Hunt (Teams of 4)		Hall
11am	Bon Fire		Ball Diamond
1:00pm	Lumberjack Games		Outside
2:00pm	Kids Games		Outside
7:00-9:00pm	Skating		Arena
Adults			
7am-3pm	Fishing Derby Contact Laura for info laurapelkey@hotmail.com	\$10	Westmeath Dock
8am-6pm	Co-ed Adult Mixed Hockey Tournament	As posted	Arena
11:30am-8pm	Bar Open		Hall
Draws & Prizes			
Sat. 6pm	50/50 Draw		Hall



**THE LA PASSE AND WESTMEATH GIRLS WIN WITH RINGETTE IN THE MID 1980'S!!**

**Part One of a Two Part Series**

Balancing a family's recreational needs with three older sisters, a younger brother and a younger foster brother was the reason Ringette was first introduced to Westmeath and La Passe and then to neighboring Valley towns. As young adolescents, it wasn't long before my three daughters noticed that Dad was spending much of his spare time supporting the recreational interests of his son, their younger brother. The girls were certainly involved in swimming, figure skating, gymnastics, tap dancing, ball, piano etc. but mostly because of their Mom! They also enjoyed skating and learning to play hockey on the outdoor rink built on the river at our home in La Passe. Whereas, their younger brother was involved with Dad in hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, hockey, baseball and Boy Scouts! The girls picked up on this imbalance and pressured Dad for more of his recreational time. The major "balancing challenge" came when Dad, as Leader of his son's Boy Scout Pack, started to build a Log Club House in the backyard to serve as a meeting place for his Boy Scouts' Troop. The girls insisted on having access to it for their use, as well. However, Dad explained that with all the Scouts gear in the Clubhouse, sharing it would not work! So, the girls came up with the idea of a second storey level, built on top of the boys Clubhouse. Dad agreed and with their help it was built and there it sits to this day.

Balance achieved? No, the girls didn't stop there! They wanted a Girl Guides Group and to Play Hockey, as well! There was some interest but no leadership at that time for the Girl Guides. That came later. And, in those days, with few exceptions, there was no way girls would be allowed to play on the boy's hockey teams. One of those exceptions was the outstanding Girl Goalie on the Westmeath Mosquito, Atom, and Pee Wee 'Boys' Hockey Teams that I coached! Challenged with dressing room issues and the rougher body contact play at the next levels of hockey she, Jenny Marleau, transitioned from the Boys' Pee Wee Hockey Team to the Ringette Team for more exceptional Goalie action! Sorry boys, your loss!

By coincidence, one of my daughters heard, from a girl at high school, about this game called "Ringette for Girls," which was started in North Bay, in 1963. With her other two persistent sisters, they challenged Dad again to look into this and organize it for them and the girls in the area. Dad obliged and the story of how Ringette got its start in the Valley follows.

The North Bay Ringette Association was very helpful in introducing us to this new "Game for Girls" dubbed "Hockey's Sister Sport." They provided written materials from the Ontario Ringette Association and contact information for the Ottawa Ringette Association, for follow up, being closer to the Valley. While reviewing the information, received from North Bay, I must say that as a ball and hockey player and coach, I was very impressed, first with the game's resemblance to hockey and the very high skills levels that players needed to develop, with the proper coaching and training. Because there was no body contact and no offsides in the game, the skating speeds and stick handling skills would make for a very fast paced game. The fact that the "Ring" had to be picked up by stabbing it and not with the blade of a hockey stick meant that a whole new set of hand/eye co-ordinations skills had to be mastered! As a result, Ringette is a very fast moving, wide-open, high-powered sport and very exciting to watch!

The Ottawa Ringette Association was very pleased to send us a few of their coaches on several occasions in the winter of 1984 to show us and the girls, we initially recruited, how to play the game and develop the required skills. The few local girls who came with some hockey experience to our Ringette practices, helped to encourage their teammates to master these new Ringette skills. After a few training sessions, we reached out to and included girls from Beachburg and Cobden in the Westmeath practices. Eventually, Shawville heard about it and joined us, as well. Of note, the girls had to wear "boys hockey skates." So, for a time they borrowed hockey skates from their brothers or friends. Also, I filed the picks off many girls' figure skates until they were able to acquire their own hockey tube skates.

Realizing the challenges ahead that would be required to introduce this new game to our young female players, their families and the community at large, the help of an experienced High School Sports Coach was also enlisted in the person of Ingo Leinen. He was a tremendous help in those early years. Robert Gervais assisted occasionally with practices and skills development. Likewise, we benefitted at our practices, in the next few years, from the assistance of Brenda Benson, a young skilled Ringette player, who had recently

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**Ringette Cont'd**

**Westmeath**

**Ringette Team**

**1985-86**



Back Row: Murray DeRuiter, Karen Gervais, Jen Everly, Jody Kitson, Paula Spotswood, Vicki Fletcher, Anna Norlock, Tracy O'Brien, Leslie Gervais, Leanna Gervais, Paula Kenny, Louise Norlock, Nancy White.

Front Row: Trych Shields, Dana Dupuis, Samantha Gervais, Jennifer Marleau, Christine Gervais, Heidi Robinson, Amy Ethier, Angie Dupuis.

Please feel free to contact me (**Vince Gervais**) by phone (613-587-4838) or E-Mail ([vgervais@nrtco.net](mailto:vgervais@nrtco.net)) with your memories of Ringette and/or any corrections in the above. We will have an opportunity to include these in Part Two of this Article

**Part Two – April 2022.** Recruiting Coaches and Referees; The 1984-85 Season; The Ringette League and Association; Local; Players advancing to AA & AAA Teams and Provincial Level Teams; April 1989 Eastern Ontario Championships; Local Grandmother follows Granddaughters Nationally and Internationally The return to hockey; Ringette in the Valley today; More pictures!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The WDRA is looking for volunteers to work our monthly bingo at the Delta Bingo. We have 2 bingos per month back to back, so we have to go once a month. It is very easy, we just have to call back numbers, pick up cards and wipe off tables. The money we get from Delta Bingo helps us with programming and events. This is important as we receive monthly funds to help keep things going. Delta Bingo is just starting back up and we will need to start volunteering soon. We have lost our BINGO Volunteers. Volunteers need to take a short training. Please contact any member of the board, or [wdra@nrtco.net](mailto:wdra@nrtco.net) if you have questions or to let us know you are interested.

Thank you.  
Brenda Grady, Bingo Coordinator and President, WDRA

**WDRA**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Several positions are up for election**

**President, Vice President, Secretary,  
Bar Manager, Sports/Programming  
Coordinator, Members at Large Positions**

**We are always looking for volunteers to assist with our many activities. Even if you cannot commit to being on the board we would love to have you take the lead on an activity you would like to see happen in our community, or volunteer with an event. If you are interested please contact Beth at 613-587-4294 or send a message to [wdra@nrtco.net](mailto:wdra@nrtco.net)**



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**March 5th from 11-3**

