

Langley To Host Provincial Championships

BY RICHARD MacKINNON

With a ten to fifteen percent overall increase in Ringette Registrations throughout the Province, this year's Championships slated for Langley and Aldergrove promises to be the best ever since Ringette made its debut in British Columbia in 1972.

The four-day Championship Competitions will be held at the Langley and Aldergrove Arenas simultaneously on March 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1982. The final Championship games on Sunday 14 will be played at the Langley Arena, home rink of the 1982 hosts.

As of this writing, members of the Langley Ringette Association confirmed that Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Howe Sound-Squamish and Prince George will be icing a team of Jr. Belles (13-14 yrs.) at this year's gala event.

The North-Shore Winter Club will compete in three Divisions, Petites (6-10 yrs.), Tweens (11-12) and Junior Belles (13-14).

Port Coquitlam, North-West Vancouver, Aldergrove and host Club Langley will enter all four Divisions - namely Petites, Tweens, Junior Belles and Belles (15-18). A fifth Category, namely Debs (18 and over) will not be competing this year.

The game of Ringette was invented by the late Sam Jacks, a dedicated conservationist and a North Bay Ontario Park and Recreation Director. He had a keen interest in Amateur Sports for both boys and girls and bemoaned the fact that there was not an ice game for girls as there was hockey for boys. It was thus that he developed the game of Ringette which became very popular and spread rapidly throughout Ontario and across Canada.

Ringette is a non-contact adaption of hockey, exclusively for girls and it is Team Sport that can favorably compare with any sport in the entire field of athlet-

ics and it holds the same fascination and fun for girls that hockey holds for boys.

Members of the Langley Ringette Association extend high praise to the parents of their own Association, to parents and members of visiting Associations for their splendid co-operation in organizing the event and in their willingness in providing officiating personnel for the Championships.

They also paid special tribute to Trudy Cutberth, Ceka Butt and Eileen Carpenter, who first introduced the game in Aldergrove in 1972; to Bev Felske who started Ringette in Port Coquitlam in 1975 and to the Director of Athletics for the North-Shore Commission, namely Hector Levasseur, assisted by Peter Griffin and his wife Luanne who launched the game in North Vancouver in 1978. Due to dedicated efforts of these people and many others, the game has continued to gain in popularity.

The first Provincial Championship was held in 1976.

The 1981 Trophy Winners were as follows: Petites Division - North Shore Winter Club, Tweens - Port Coquitlam and the Belles from Aldergrove dominated throughout the Championship series culminating in a Trophy win.

The Trophies are awarded for the winners of each division. Another important feature of the Championships is the awarding of the Sportsgalship Trophies. These are earned by the team in each Division which displays outstanding playing ability with the qualities of friendship, fair competition and all around good Sportsmanship.

This is Langley's second hosting of the Provincial Championships and with their superb reputation for organization, there is no doubt that this now well known and popular event will again be a spectacular success.