



Nov 12, 2009

Via e-mail/ Web-site Posting

To: All Leaside Hockey Association Members

Subject: Media & Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association

Dear Member:

On November 11th, there was widespread media coverage and public statements from the Mayor on the both the plight and practices relating to the Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association (TLGHA). The LHA board believes it is important to separate fact and fiction as it relates to some of the practices as portrayed in the media and our current status as it relates to both ice utilization and the impact on ice costs to our members. It is not our role to comment on the practices of the TLGHA.

Leaside Memorial Gardens Arena Board of Management:

The LHA's interaction and working relationship with the Arena Board has been a positive experience. We believe that the board is operating objectively and fairly as it relates to the allocation of ice to all of the community user groups. In fact, the TLGHA has recognized this board with the following endorsement to their members:

"To date, Leaside Memorial Gardens is the only board of management that has disclosed their ice allocation formula and has been willing to give the girls of the leaside community their share of ice time" Ron Baker- President TLGHA, Nov 11th

We applaud and will continue to support our Leaside Gardens Board of Management in their efforts to continue to work with the city in developing a second pad of ice at the 1073 Millwood Rd site and in their workings with the user groups of the current facility.

LHA Utilization and Budget Impact:

The public comments reflecting that the LHA playing competitive games in Leaside Memorial Gardens(LMG) is blocking out opportunities for other user groups is not factual.

We currently operate an estimated 1000 player program at LMG for both our hockey school and house leagues. Both of these programs have girls participating in them and we have not been in a position to expand the hockey school program despite their being a need in the community. We have been turning away families for the past few seasons due to ice availability. Our current hockey school program is under severe strain operationally.

Our current ice utilization at LMG represents less than 30% of our total seasonal requirements. Similar to the TLGHA, we need to enter into contracts with private facilities each season to support practices and development for all of our select and GTHL competitive teams. The cost of renting ice outside of LMG also continues to escalate and is now 77% of our ice budget, while supplying 70% of our needs. Not included in these numbers, is the cost to play competitive games in the GTHL and Select. The cost for these games is included in the team assessments that both the NYHL and GTHL charge clubs to participate in on a seasonal basis.

Due to ice limitations at LMG, none of the LHA's over 30 teams at the Select and GTHL practice or play league games at LMG. Similar to the TLGHA, the LHA must purchase more expensive private ice. We are also very concerned about the ever-escalating ice costs and the affordability to our membership.

The simple fact of the matter is there are not enough ice facilities in the city of Toronto to support the game of hockey and figure/recreational skating for all users.

If there has been an injustice done, it is at the City of Toronto. While demand for the game of hockey and other ice uses continues to grow in our communities, a new facility has not been built in over 38 years. It is long overdue that candid discussions occur at the city specific to a plan to build sustainable ice facilities to support the youth in our communities.

Sincerely,

Derek Woods- President
Leaside Hockey Association