

TORONTO LEASIDE GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

LET'S PLAY FAIR

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT -- ONCE AGAIN

In their open letter the North Toronto Hockey Association (NTHA) has made a number of false and misleading statements about the Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association (TLGHA). Here are some examples:

<i>NTHA calls us "Leaside Girls" or "Leaside Girls Hockey Association"</i>	MISLEADING
<p>We are proud of our Leaside roots. Our name however is the Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association. Our name respects our roots and the current nature of our membership. Referring to us as Leaside makes it easier for NTHA to make it sound like we are "out of district". As our registered membership shows TLGHA girls are indeed 'in district' and part of the NT community.</p>	
<i>"They [TLGHA] have not been totally forthcoming ... when they have approached various arenas looking for ice."</i>	FALSE
<p>TLGHA has <i>always</i> provided <i>all</i> required and requested information in a consistent format when requested by the City of Toronto and to the Arena Boards that do allocate ice to TLGHA (Leaside Gardens, Forest Hill and Ted Reeve) including residency of our members by postal code. TLGHA has responded to all requests for follow-up information. The North Toronto Memorial Arena Board has neither asked for information supplementary to our requests nor responded to our requests with anything other than a simple "No".</p>	
<i>"We [NTHA] have requested from Leaside Girls on a number of occasions, and have not received, information related to their use of ALL City owned ice facilities."</i>	FALSE
<p>NTHA has NEVER contacted TLGHA formally and asked for information</p>	
<i>"they [TLGHA] propose to displace NTHA's co-educational, community-based hockey and/or figure skating programs"</i>	FALSE
<p>TLGHA has made no such proposal. We have requested an equitable allocation of ice and have also insisted that no community youth program users be displaced.. We have never had the opportunity to discuss implementation as the answer from the NT arena board has always simply been "No". As a community user group our role is to deal with the NT arena board not the NTHA. We have reached out to other boys leagues in the community and started a constructive dialogue with them. We would be happy to have the same dialogue with NTHA as a fellow user group.</p>	
<i>"... Leaside Girls has suggested that 22 hours of prime time ice be made available for their programs."</i>	FALSE
<p>City guidelines are used as a starting point for discussion of equitable allocations of ice. Pro rata shares would be the logical outcome of a rationale and fair process. We never get there with NT. The answer is simply "No".</p>	
<i>"... we estimate Leaside Girls 435 members"</i>	FALSE
<p>TLGHA's confirmed, registered membership with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association, Hockey Canada and the City of Toronto is 918 players.</p>	

"we have placed priority around developing and growing our programming for girls " **MISLEADING**

The proposed program does nothing for the 302 TLGHA community youth who live in the postal codes identified as local by NTHA.

"NTHA and the North Toronto Skating Club are partners with the North Toronto Arena board ... we work to ensure that the North Toronto Arena remains one of the best run arenas in the City." **TRUE**

... and in your decisions and actions to ensure that any other community user is kept out.

"To remove the Arena Board's autonomy... would be incompetent and foolhardy." **MISLEADING**

The recommendations going before Council include gathering information from all arenas and users on a complete and consistent basis. Isn't this what NT wants?

The recommendations go on to request ice allocation recommendations from the Arena Boards. If the information supports the recommendations and the recommendations are consistent with the ice allocation policy of the city there should be no problem. If not, there should be change!

What's the problem with a transparent, information-based decision-making process based on City policy?