



Leaside Memorial Community Gardens Arena Expansion Project

STATEMENT OF NEED

*"We need more ice in Toronto for minor hockey and figure skating.
The Leaside Arena expansion project is ready to go.
We just need to demonstrate that the community is behind it
so we can get this rink approved and built"*

Brian Burke
Toronto Maple Leafs General Manager and Leaside resident

About Leaside Memorial Community Gardens

Leaside Memorial Community Gardens opened its doors almost 60 years ago and has been a focal point of the local community ever since. Open seven days a week and boasting a single-pad ice rink, a curling rink, an indoor swimming pool, and a large auditorium, people living in Leaside and environs gather together at this facility to play hockey, figure skate, swim and socialize.

Playing a major role in awareness raising and community building, our hockey and figure skating programs help improve physical skills, instill discipline, develop social skills, teach patience, and encourage teamwork and cooperation.

Serving the Leaside Community and Beyond

Leaside Gardens is proud to serve the more than 6,500 families living in Leaside as well as a good number of families in the East York catchment area and beyond. What is more, we have built longstanding relationships with:

- The Leaside Hockey Association - the second largest hockey association in the Greater Toronto Hockey League
- The Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association - organizes and supports female hockey in Toronto
- The Leaside Skating Club – dedicated to teaching the joys and skills of skating to people of all ages

These 3 organizations serve approximately 2,500 young people from Leaside and surrounding area.

Partnering with Our Community is a Tradition

The current Leaside Gardens financial model operates on two different levels. On the first level, our annual revenues of approximately \$970,000 come from ice pad and pool rentals, advertising, the snack bar, and pro shop sales, in the main. On the second level, and specifically to cover the high cost of capital expansion projects, we raise money through grassroots community fundraising efforts.

The history speaks for itself. Leaside Gardens was built sixty years ago with the generous support from the people of Leaside and with the visionary leadership of the Lions and Rotary Clubs as well as many other local service organisations. Twenty years later, when the arena needed a new roof, the community joined hands to raise \$500,000 to get the job done. More recently the community again stepped up to replace the seating.

Today is no different. For us to expand Leaside Gardens in order to meet the growing demand for ice, we are once again calling on our growing community of supporters.

More Ice Time

For a long time now, all the available ice at Leaside Gardens has been rented out making it difficult for our user groups to keep up with the growing demand for the programs they offer. Moreover, our local hockey players and figure skaters have been forced to travel to arenas in distant parts of the city and to pay private ice rental rates to get a chance to skate.

The overwhelming demand for ice time requires an expansion of the facility and construction of a second pad of ice.

The Opportunity to Make a Difference

In 2009 the City of Toronto purchased from the Province of Ontario the property at 1075 Millwood Road on which to expand. The current estimated capital cost for the project is \$9.5 million, including design fees and disbursements; demolition; a new building and tie-ins; and contingencies. The City has agreed to permit borrowing of \$7 million against projected future operating revenues.

The first task of the Leaside Gardens Board of Management Expansion Committee with the help and support of our user groups and the Leaside community is to make up the difference.

Our grassroots community fundraising goal is to raise the balance of \$2.5 million – with this amount committed by January 15th, 2011, and payable by December, 2012.



Our Board of Management

The Leaside Memorial Community Gardens Board of Management, consisting of nine community volunteers from Leaside and environs and our local Toronto Councillor, manage the facility on behalf of the community and the City of Toronto.

Contact Us

For more information about the Leaside Gardens capital expansion project, please visit www.leasidearena.com or call Paul Mercer, Chair of the Expansion Committee at 416-497-5665 or Brooke Biscoe at 416-445-7445.

"As a hockey player, hockey and figure skating parent, management board member, and city councillor, I have come to know how vital Leaside Gardens is to our community – and how valuable a second ice pad will be right away and well into the future."

~John Parker
Toronto City Councillor, Ward 26