



Open Letter to Westwood Hockey Participants:

Last fall, Hockey Calgary formed a Boundary Review Committee (BRC) to review the current boundaries of its 18 member associations.

The final recommendations of the BRC are now posted on www.hockeycalgary.com. The recommendation affecting Westwood is that the community of Dalhousie as well as 5 Rec Hockey teams should be added to Westwood. There is also a recommendation on Grandfathering which could affect 7 Westwood registrants.

The Westwood Hockey Association Board of Directors has reviewed the BRC proposal and has consulted extensively with the 3 Community Associations which we serve – Brentwood, Triwood and West Hillhurst. As a result, the Westwood Board has unanimously voted to oppose the BRC proposal.

Hockey Calgary will hold a formal vote on the BRC proposal amongst its member associations on April 30, 2009. As one of the smaller member associations, Westwood is allowed 2 voting delegates. We intend to vote against the proposal.

Before discussing further the reasons for Westwood's opposition, a brief description of the structure of Westwood is merited for those that are not familiar.

The Westwood Hockey Association is an amalgamation of the hockey programs of Brentwood, Triwood and West Hillhurst ("The Tri-Communities"), each of which constructed and currently owns and operates a community rink. Each of the 3 member communities is itself an amalgamation of several other communities as follows:

Brentwood – comprised of Brentwood and Edgemont

Triwood – comprised of Triwood, Banff Trail, Charleswood, Collingwood, Capitol Hill, and University Heights

West Hillhurst – comprised of West hillhurst. Hillhurst/Sunnyside, Houndsfield Heights/Briar Hill, Parkdale, St. Andrews

The Board of Directors of the Westwood Hockey Association consists of 10 volunteer directors including 6 voting members. The 6 voting members are made up of 2 directors from each of the 3 founder Community Associations

of Brentwood, Triwood and West Hillhurst. Westwood is bound by a constitution which was established by the 3 founder communities at the time of amalgamation.

To date, all of these previous amalgamations have been initiated by the communities which built, own and operate the rinks. The BRC proposal before us is the first time that Hockey Calgary has tried to impose an amalgamation on Westwood.

Back to the BRC process. The BRC consisted of representatives from 8 different hockey associations. Westwood was not represented on the BRC although we had full access to provide input and feedback. The stated goal of the BRC is “To create an environment where every player in the City of Calgary has an equitable opportunity to develop their skills”. Westwood interprets this to mean “creating associations of roughly equal size with roughly equal access to icetimes in the hopes of equalizing competitiveness”.

Hockey Calgary is made up of associations with community-owned rinks and others without. Those without community-owned rinks rely solely on City of Calgary ice allocations. Some associations rely on a mix of community-owned and City ice. As you have undoubtedly read, there is a chronic shortage of City ice.

The BRC began meeting in January and came out with its initial recommendations in March. The initial recommendation was that Dalhousie (currently part of Crowfoot) should join Westwood. The Westwood Board consulted with the Tri-Communities and found partial support for this recommendation.

On March 30, the BRC came out with its final recommendations. To Westwood’s surprise, a recommendation to add 5 Rec Hockey teams was added to the original Dalhousie proposal. The Tri-community boards met with the Westwood board on April 2 and unanimously rejected the proposal. The BRC proposal went public on April 3.

On April 30, Hockey Calgary will hold a formal vote on the BRC proposal. Each member association is allowed to send one voting delegate for every 15 teams it supports. A simple majority is required for the vote to pass. With 34 teams in its ranks, Westwood will send 2 voting delegates. Many of the larger associations will send 3 or more voting delegates.

The reasons for Westwood’s opposition:

Our 3 Community rinks were financed and built by our communities for the purpose of providing ice facilities for our community members to enjoy.

These are multi-purpose facilities – they support the growing needs of Minor Hockey, Ringette, Figure Skating, Learn-to-skate, Public Skating, Adult Hockey and Broomball. Our communities are mandated by the City of Calgary to use our facilities to serve our specific community needs. The demands of our rink programs are such that each one has to compromise its optimal ice requirements. If we had a surplus of ice, we would actively seek out new users including, for example, new communities to join our minor hockey program.

Our rinks are self-financing and supported by our community members. We rely on our rental fees as well as our volunteer-supported casinos and bingos to make ends meet. Most of us are familiar with the many hours of volunteer time we have committed over the years to support our rinks.

As a smaller association, Westwood is interested in improving our competitiveness in Hockey Calgary. However, we are not prepared to add players if it dilutes the modest amount of icetime our members currently receive. We have reviewed our ice allocation data in detail and are convinced that our association does not receive significantly more ice than other associations.

Westwood believes that several other associations with community-owned rinks will be voting against the BRC proposal for similar reasons. We are currently investigating our alternatives should the vote pass at Hockey Calgary.

The Westwood Board is continuing an open dialogue with Hockey Calgary to explore other alternatives to the BRC proposal as it pertains to Westwood. We are committed to support our hockey program within the umbrella of Hockey Calgary. We will continue to do what we can to support Hockey Calgary's goals while respecting our rights and privileges as owners of community rinks.

We are interested in the opinions and feedback of our Westwood registrants. Please feel free to contact any Westwood Director (found on www.westwoodhockey.com) or e-mail me at scottge@shaw.ca. For specifics on the positions of your individual community associations, please contact them directly.

On behalf of the Westwood Board of Directors,

**Glen Scott
President**