

FOV HISTORY



The beginnings.....

The Field of Visions project was originally conceived as a business project of the Grade 11 Visions and Ventures class in the first semester of 2006. For their final summative course exam the whole group of students was given a class project to develop a formal business plan and present it to a panel of "mock bankers". These "bankers" had to be convinced to fund the start-up costs of their plan. Students had 5 topics to choose from and the class chose to develop a plan to build a new track & field facility for the tri-school area. This choice resonated with the students because SCI was lacking a proper running track, with the existing track being very old, unusable and overgrown. The other existing fields on the tri-schools site were of poor quality bordering on unsafe for use by high school team sports. When it came time to present their business ventures, students presented a detailed plan with great enthusiasm. The panel of "mock bankers" was from the local community, and were suitably impressed with the work and the passion the students had displayed during their presentations. One of the persons sitting on the mock panel was a School Trustee, Ms. Terry Borkowski. She was so impressed with the plan, she asked the students if they would like to present their plan to the Sunrise School Division Board of Trustees.

As this presentation marked the end of the Semester 1 Grade 11 Visions and Ventures class involvement, a core group of about 10 students decided that they wanted to try and bring their business plan to life. Their Business Teacher, Jim Osler, agreed to help the students in their mission to bring a proper track & field facility to Springfield Collegiate and the surrounding RM of Springfield. So a loose "Working Committee" was established to proceed, consisting of the students and Mr. Osler. With this initiative the Field of Visions (FOV) project was born. The group accepted Trustee Borkowski's invitation to present to the Board of Trustees and reworked their plan to determine the steps necessary to bring "their" field to life. They called their project "Field of Visions", naming it for the Visions and Ventures class that developed the original plan. They decided the first step to the process would be to get an actual costing for building the field. To do this, they would have to survey the field and hire an engineer to provide a quote for the project. As the endeavor had no money at this point, the students realized that they would have to figure out a way to fundraise enough money to have the field surveyed. They were determined to do this all on their own and did not want to go to the School Board to ask for money. They chose instead to ask for permission to proceed with the project, as well as to fundraise for the funds to have the field surveyed. The Field of Visions student group gave their presentation to the Sunrise School Division Board of Trustees on February 16th, 2006. Their request for support of the project and permission to fundraise was approved by Sunrise School Division Board of Trustees at their meeting that night.

Motion #05-06/03-02/0209: Trustee Malkoske - Trustee Borkowski

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the Springfield Collegiate Institute Field Proposal in principle with the group to provide a presentation and update at the first board meeting in November, 2006.

Now the project was off and running!

Our First Event

On Saturday May 6th, 2006, the students from Mr. Osler's Semester 2 Visions and Ventures class, in partnership with the FOV students, organized and hosted a Gala Dinner and Dance event in Beausejour, Manitoba at the Brokenhead River Recreation Complex. A roast beef dinner catered by "Phyllis" was complemented with a silent auction and entertainment featuring local Springfield Band "Garven Rock". After dinner and before the live entertainment, students involved in the Field of Visions project presented their vision to the sold-out crowd of 250. This informative presentation, coupled with a great silent auction (with over \$10,000 in prices), meant success! This event evening raised close to \$8,000.00 after expenses for the FOV project. Now the money was in place to move ahead with having a Field Survey done in order to obtain an estimate for this project.

2006 Field Survey

Until this point the cost for building the facility was a "best guess" based on the research done by the students involved in their initial business plan. This first "guesstimate" showed a price between \$140,000- \$250,000. It was evident that "real" costing was needed in order to move forward. In April 2006, an Engineering Consulting firm from Winnipeg was hired to complete, (with reference to the old SCI track & field behind SMS/SCI), a spatial and topographic site survey, preliminary layout drawings, and develop construction cost estimates for a new competition grade 8-lane running track and multi-use field. On November 15th, 2006, the FOV Working Committee received the field survey drawings and costing estimates. At this time two cost estimates were received, based upon the expected life of the track and field before a major rebuild would be necessary. The difference in the quotes reflects the variances in the levels of sub-excavation and amounts of fill required for the sub-base and base parts of the track. At the top end of the scale, an estimate of \$511,000.00 was received for a field that would last approximately 20 years. At the bottom end of the scale, an estimate of \$328,000.00 was received for a field that would last approximately 10 years. With the information in hand and the numbers on the table, the students on the Working Committee decided they must pursue building a field that would be available for their children. So building the \$511,000.00 - 20 year field became our main focus.

The next step on this path was to raise the profile of this project in the community.

Raising Awareness - Two events

Two main events were staged to raise the public awareness of the project in our community. These events were staged by the Grade 11 Visions and Ventures Business classes of SCI and were hosted by FOV students.

On Friday, March 16th, 2007, the Grade 10 Business Class staged an "Aware and Care" Pancake Breakfast and Fashion Show to raise student and community awareness about the Field of Visions project. The FOV Working Committee made presentations and talked with the student body about the project. This event was a success, raised \$1200 and served to educate members of the SCI student body. As a result, student interest in the project started to grow.

The second event took place on Saturday November 17th, 2007. It was a large scale event in support of the FOV project and was put on by the Grade 11 Visions & Ventures class at the Beausejour Recreation Center. **The "Field of Visions Red Carpet Event" consisted of a served roast pork dinner, with a 45-minute fashion show being presented during the meal. The fashion show showcased formal and grad wear and was staged by SCI students from all grades. After dinner there was a presentation about the FOV project made by members of the FOV Working Committee. This was followed by** entertainment featuring local Springfield band "Garven Rock". The evening was a success, as the project was once again highlighted in our community, with awareness (as well as money) also once again raised.

2007 to 2009 - Inward Focus

After the staging of the "Red Carpet Event", the Committee decided to hold off on hosting any more events until we were prepared to proceed with the Capital Campaign to raise the funds necessary to build the field. Throughout the fall of 2007 and the spring of 2008, the FOV Working Committee adopted a more inward focus. Realizing that a strong foundation had to be developed to support both a future Capital fundraising campaign and the building phases of the project at the same time, the FOV Working Committee recognized that it was time to get help from outside the Committee. FOV meetings focused on organizing the working group and making individual contact with members of the Springfield community to discuss the project and obtain guidance. Some of the people the FOV Working Committee met with included organizers of the local youth soccer leagues, members of the community involved in researching and promoting a new recreational complex for Oakbank and the RM of Springfield, and former SCI Alumni who were interested in the FOV project. Through these meetings, the Committee received direction on how best to move forward with the project. These three priorities were identified:

- Develop a new organizational structure that was open, transparent, open and acceptable.
- Locate and utilize experts in track and field development to guide the design and construction process.
- Locate and utilize experts in capital campaign fundraising who would be willing to volunteer their time to help and guide the FOV Working Committee.

Throughout the Spring and Fall of 2009, the Working Committee moved forward with these priorities. A new structure for the project was adopted, along with an organization Constitution. The FOV Project formally became the FOV Organization (FOVO). A new Executive structure consisting of 11 voting members, of which 9 positions are students, one teacher and one member of SCI Parent Council. Ex-officio (non-voting) members consist of the SCI Principal and a member of the Sunrise School Division Board of Trustees. This organization now formally falls under SCI Parent Council. In October 2009, the first AGM was held and the Constitution was voted in by the membership in attendance. As adopted, the Organization has the following Mission, Purpose and Membership as laid out in the Constitution;

SECTION 2: MISSION

The Field of Visions Organization is a student-run organization dedicated to the enhancement of the outdoor sports facilities available for students and community members in the tri-school area of Oakbank.

SECTION 3: PURPOSE

Our purpose is to:

- Build a multi-use field in the tri-school area of Oakbank.
- Promote physical fitness
- Promote school and community spirit

SECTION 4: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Field of Visions Organization is open to interested students, alumni, staff and parents of Springfield Collegiate. All other interested students, staff and parents from other Sunrise School Division schools in the RM are also eligible for membership.

Also in the Fall of 2009, an outside expert in provincial Track and Field (former athlete, coach, and official) was approached and asked to advise the FOVO. Mr. Terry Armstrong, who also happens to be a Civil Engineer, agreed to act as a volunteer advisor to the project. He has extensive experience in provincial and national level track and field. He has also been in consultation with the groups who built the Western Canada Summer Games 2003 track and field facility in Selkirk, and is very familiar with the University of Manitoba and the University of Brandon track and field facilities. With Terry on board, the project moved ahead rapidly. His advice to hire a firm to act as "engineering consultant" to oversee the design and building of the track was a step which moved the project firmly forward. On October 23rd, the Sunrise School Division issued RFP# 6-09 for an "Engineering Consultant for Athletics Track". In November 2009, the Sunrise School Division Board of Trustees formally hired AECOM Canada Ltd as the engineering consultants for the FOV Organization. In March 2010, detailed drawings and costs were delivered to the Organization. From the design perspective, we are finally ready to go!

The last outstanding recommendation was that we locate and utilize outside experts in capital campaign fundraising who would be willing to volunteer their time to help and guide the FOV Working Committee. In the Fall of 2009, a member of the Winnipeg fundraising community was approached by members of the FOV Executive to ask if they would be willing to advise the FOVO on developing and implementing a Capital Campaign. They accepted. As a result, FOVO gained the experience of an accredited (CFRE) member of the Winnipeg fundraising community

with extensive and on-going experience in hospital foundation fundraising in Winnipeg. In the Fall of 2009 and through the Winter of 2010, this person met with members of the FOV Executive and membership on numerous occasions to assist FOVO in writing a Capital Campaign document, and lay the foundation for the organization of a Capital Campaign.

2010 Event & Capital Campaign

With everything else falling into place and a Capital Campaign on the horizon, the FOVO Executive decided in mid-December that it was time to host a new fundraising event to raise money for the Marketing program behind the Capital Campaign. On Saturday February 20th, 2010 FOVO together with the Grade 12 Marketing class hosted "Rock With It". This adult-oriented fundraising Dinner and Dance featured the classic Winnipeg rock band "Harlequin", with SCI's own "Maybe So" (winner of last year's Talent Show) opening the evening's entertainment. The event, which was held in Beausejour at the Brokenhead Recreation Centre, included a Roast Beef dinner, and an unbelievable Silent Auction with over \$10,000 in prizes. This event raised approximately \$9500 for FOVO.

As we enter the Spring of 2010, the private component of the Capital Campaign has begun. Students are meeting with key individuals and businesses in our community to obtain financial support for the project. The public component of this campaign is scheduled to begin mid 2010.

Community Commitment & An Amazing Learning Experience

One interesting hallmark of this project is that many of the students who have been actively involved in developing this project have done so knowing that they will never use this facility as students of SCI. In fact many graduating students have remained actively involved, working at events and supporting the FOVO executive. This truly demonstrates a commitment from the youth of Springfield to the future of their community.

While there have been some false starts, lost opportunities and organizational growing pains, this project has really been a learning exercise for the many students involved since 2006. To the best of our knowledge, there is no project like this elsewhere in Manitoba or Canada. Initially developed out of a hands-on classroom activity, this project has grown over the years. With the on-going support from the Sunrise School Division, this has truly become a student-run project. All of the students involved have the opportunity to participate in the many different facets of this project. There is no level where student involvement is restricted. As a result, many levels of "hands-on" experiential learning have taken place, with students putting into practice many of the lessons that they have learned in their classrooms. Involvement in this project is voluntary, and there is no pay other than a truly unique learning experience for all involved!

Students involved in this project will see their children playing on the field and running on the track that they helped build. This is the true legacy of the Field of Visions Project.