

Kids building a field of dreams

Students raising funds and will do the work

By Nick Martin

OAKBANK — Kids at Springfield Collegiate have a dream of leaving their school a legacy — and they hope generations stomp all over their vision.

There's a weed-filled marsh that belongs to Sunrise School Division between the high school and middle school. The ruins of a gravel running track lie somewhere under the debris.

Grade 11 students in teacher Jim Osler's visions and ventures business course came up with the idea earlier this year to transform that land into a soccer pitch and state-of-the-art track.

They raised \$5,500 at a sold-out dinner in Beausejour earlier this month, enough to get a professional survey, Osler said.

The students have won Sunrise school board approval to raise as much as \$264,000 to turn ground by next June and have the field and track operational a year later.

"The kids will be writing grants (applications) like crazy come fall," he said.

"This is like the biggest thing that's ever gone through this class," said student Erin Doern.

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Michelle Oger, Erin Doern, Mandy Carter, Anjelique DaCosta and Eric Wasylenko are working to rejuvenate the school's abandoned sports field.

"There's tons and tons of land out here — it's ridiculous we don't have a field," Mandy Carter added.

There are smaller fields at the nearby community centre that Springfield Collegiate uses for games and some gym classes. Vice-principal Lawrence Hamm figures the field just north of the school has not had any work done on it for at least 20 years.

"Half the kids didn't even know we had a playing field. It's grown over," said Osler.

Student Michelle Oger explained

that the field will be cleared and leveled, then grass will be planted to accommodate soccer, lacrosse, rugby, possibly even football.

The students will not ask the school division or province to build the field.

"They wanted to make it a field put together by kids," Osler said.

Oger said the five students heading the project will attend university in Winnipeg but will continue to run the project. *Sid*

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