

Students plan "Field of Visions"

By Dana Trapp

Determination, passion, enthusiasm and a willingness to make something better for others is what motivates a group of students at Springfield Collegiate in Oakbank.

A project titled "Field of Visions," developed last semester by a group of students participating in the business classes of Visions and Ventures 30S, is a proposal to build a new running track and playing field for the present and future students of SCI and Springfield Middle School.

This project would also have a large impact on all who live in the community and in the municipality.

On Tuesday, April 18th, I met with Erin Doern and Mandy Carter, just two of the several students who are involved in this project. With their teacher, Mr. Jim Osler, who teaches Business and Canadian Studies at SCI, these students soon realized that many would benefit from the this type of project.

"We quickly realized that we needed this, a field for sports play. We have all this land all around us yet why can't we use it properly? Our track team runs on the streets, no one has ever used what we have for at least the past ten years. Grass and weeds cover the current 'track', and there are



SCI students Erin Doern and Mandy Carter with a model of the "Field of Visions" project proposal.

so many drainage issues," Doern and Carter explain.

"Currently at our school, we have a boys and girls outdoor soccer team with nowhere to play or practice, and we also have a boys and girls rugby team that practices on a rough and hazardous field. Like our soccer team, our track team also has nowhere to practice. It is embarrassing for a school of our size, which is situated in a rural area with lots of open space, not to have a suitable and safe outdoor field for our students to use. City schools have this, so why not Springfield Collegiate?" reads a small part from their

proposal.

These students have done their studies, prepared a proposal and presented their findings to several School Division representatives. "Once we presented to them, they were really impressed and asked us to come to the Board Meeting which was held later that day," explained Doern.

From the Sunrise School Division Board meeting on March 2nd, they were approved to proceed and to begin fundraising for the project. The preliminary costs between \$150,000 and \$250,000, a very large number to reach but by the looks the things, these students won't be easily deterred.

This "Field of Vision" project will include a field for sports such as soccer, rugby, football, field hockey, lacrosse, etc., an 8-lane asphalt track, and areas for shot-put, discus, javelin throw and long jump. They hope to incorporate a score board, benches for the players and bleachers for approximately 100 people.

"This will open a lot of opportunity for our schools and the community," explained Doern. "We really want to leave a mark and we're capable of making a difference," both Doern and Carter explain.

"Even though we are here to use it, we hope others will enjoy it," said Carter as she explained that the project is anticipated to begin in June 2007. "We'll be both sticking with this project after graduation and we will see it through to the end," they add.

The launch of their fundraising campaign begins with the Field of Visions Gala, a semi-formal dinner and dance held on May 6, 2006 at the Brokenhead River Recreation Complex in Beauséjour. The gala will feature a roast beef dinner, silent auction (with over \$3,800 worth of fabulous prizes), live entertainment, dancing, and an in-depth presentation on the "Field of Visions."

Tickets are on sale now, tax receipts are available. "We hope that you will consider supporting this event and will call Springfield Collegiate (444-2404) to buy tickets. Any donations for our silent auction would be also appreciated. Support now will ensure this project is a reality when your children attend SCI."

For more information about the "Field of Visions" project, plan to attend a short informational session at the Springfield Collegiate library on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00pm.