

Springhill

New community centre/ice rink

-The building of a new community centre for the town.

In winter 2001, the roof of the local arena collapsed during a peewee game. The community saw it as an opportunity to rebuild and have something more for the community – not just another rink, but a place where people could gather.

There was public consultation to ask what was needed, what people wanted and what we could actually afford. A steering committee and building committee were established. We worked together; worked on funding proposals/applications to various levels of government. There was a lot of consultation. An architect looked at what could be done and what people wanted, and it turned out to cost too much money. More meetings took place with the architect and building committee to compromise on what could be done based on funding. A new building location was chosen. We got as much funding as possible – from the federal government, the provincial government, and insurance. The goal was for 6.1 million dollar centre, community goal was 1.5 million dollars [what does this mean?]. Fundraising was successful: committees were established based on people's skills (corporate sector, federal funding, special events). All committees met together once per month to discuss how things were going. A fundraiser was also hired who helped organize these different fundraising committees.

No one person initiated the project. Some key players were the town councilor and 2 citizens (men) who became part of the steering committee. The steering committee formed to start the ball rolling on the whole project.

- Fundraising committees
- Initial steering committee
- Building committee (dealt with architect, contractors, etc.)
- Town of Springhill (administrator)

Resources and Supports:

Natural resources

- Location
- Renewable geothermal energy - local (an opportunity to bring in new technology)

Economic resources

- Funding partners (fed., prov., insurance)- all external funding
- Fundraising efforts

Human resources

- All people's skills were used in one area or another depending on their skill set. (Human resources were all local, with the exception of the hired fundraiser.)

Social resources

- Community support

NRC Conference capacity stories 2004

- All people on committee

Existing relationships in the community were strengthened. Everyone came together; they were excited at every stage, and a lot of positive energy was created.

New relationships were formed with people from the surrounding area. The fundraising efforts showed people from the surrounding area that it would be beneficial to them and would be an asset. When the building opened many people from outside the community were there and were really happy and excited to see it get completed.

Alliances were also formed with businesses. Businesses bought advertising and gave donations. One large jewelry chain owner who grew up in the town donated \$100,000, and so they named the arena after him.

The town (a mayor and some councilors) originally did not want to build a larger centre, they just wanted to rebuild the arena. A lot of energy was initially used to convince them that the town and surrounding area needed a new centre, not just a new arena. The will of the people drove this and they would not give up until they got it.

Phase 1 of the project is completed [what was phase 1?]

Phase 2 has been started [what is phase 2?]

Phase 3- the new gymnasium- has not begun because we are waiting for the rest of the money to be raised.

We are very close to raising all of the 1.5 million dollars.

Notes from the Capacity Model Discussion table

- winter of 2001 roof of arena collapsed – luckily nobody was hurt

NRC Conference capacity stories 2004

- saw it as opportunity to have something better
- town council just wanted to replace what they had
- citizens wanted more – got together – held public meetings, did surveys, formed steering committee and building committee – assessed capacity – applied for funding
- were successful to get provincial and federal money
- challenge to raise 1.5 million dollars
- would cost more than originally though – it included NHL size arena, facility, gym, track...
- hired fundraising consultant – assessed all the assets in the community
- developed committees- who could help
- reps from corporate, government, special events groups
- tried to make it a county wide initiative in order to be successful
- they did it – had several events, had an auction and dance and raised 70,000 in one day
- have Anne Murray from community – she agreed to be honorary chair
- opened in September
- hope it will build culture and community and attract people to the community
- worked very hard and was positive experience
- proud to be part of it
- think that the core group could be mobilized again
- people worked together who you would never see socializing together
- The capacity model works well – they need to mobilize financial capital and when opportunity arose they drew on market/bureaucratic/communal and associative relations – led to positive outcomes both in terms of economic vitality and also social vitality
- lots of hurdles, lots of applications, people objecting because didn't want taxes to go up
- early indications that it was the right thing to do