

**Forward in Faith
Facility Enhancement and
Capital Campaign**



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Principal / COO
Location: Listowel Christian School
School: Listowel, Ontario, Canada
Consultant: Henry Contant

The Background:

After several years of evaluating our facilities and recognizing they no longer met our needs, my project was designed to confront the realities and negotiate our way through the major task of upgrading our facilities. This required clear and consistent communication, committed volunteers, and a core of leaders. Undoubtedly it meant running a capital campaign, which our community had never done.

The Project: There were three aspects of this project.

- Needs Analysis: First we had to understand the needs to provide excellent daily education. With this understanding, a building design was created to meet those needs.
- Capital Campaign: Give the significant nature of the needs and building design, a capital campaign team was established to raise the necessary funds.
- Communication: This was a major undertaking for a community that had not undergone significant change for many years. Creating an effective communication plan was crucial to the success of the project.

My Learning:

I learned that leading a community requires one to be completely dependent on God's leading. Although some of us had some very specific ideas about the project and how it would go, it went a completely different direction. We were planning a renovation building project on our own site and yet God was planning for us to purchase and renovate a local, vacated, public school. Allowing God to work, giving Him time, and praying for His voice to speak loudly to our community, God's plan miraculously arose as a very attractive option for us and the details began to take care of themselves. In hindsight, we stand in awe of how God has directed our school.

What is it doing in our school?

It is creating a level of excitement we could not have imagined. We were concerned about emotional attachment to the current building where we operated for almost 45 years. However, people have caught the vision for the school and how the new location can enhance our school's vision and profile. As we visit families and school supporters for the campaign, the support, ideas and excitement are difficult to capture. Running a successful campaign can rally a community. Utilizing the experience of Henry Contant to encourage our school board and community leaders, provide guidance and assurance that they possessed the skills and passion for this project was extremely valuable to empower the leaders. Without the consultation of Henry Contant, we may have been stuck in more years of facility analysis.