

Sarnia Collegiate Institute and Technical School
S.C.I.T.S.

Starting off, I would like to thank the Chair and The Director for allowing me to speak at this evenings meeting.

I do wish to state that my wife, son and daughter are all Alumni of S.C.I.T.S. . I graduated from Assumption Collegiate High School in Windsor, Ontario.

As Administrators, Managers and Trustees, problem finding ability is exceeded in importance only by one's, '**opportunity**' finding ability.

Peter F. Drucker reminds us: "All one can hope to get by solving a problem is to restore normality. The results themselves must come from exploitation of opportunities, "**maximization of opportunities**" is a meaningful, indeed a precise, definition of the **entrepreneurial opportunity**.

This implies that the **effectiveness**, rather than the **efficiency** is **essential** for the SCITS, **resolution!**

Therefore the pertinent question is not how to do things right, BUT how to find the right thing to do, and then concentrate resources and efforts accordingly.

Recently, I had a short phone conversation with Mr. Proctor, the Principal of Walkerville Collegiate in Windsor. Mr. Proctor closed 2 high schools in Windsor: Forster Collegiate on Sandwich and Felix, west end school same type of neighbourhood as SCITS and W. D. Lowe (a sister school to both SCITS and Beal in London) a mid-town school.

Mr. Proctor spoke about the relevance of Walkerville Collegiate designation being the Walkerville Centre For the Creative Arts some 25 years ago. As many of our Board Members know, is the designated Arts School for the Windsor and Essex County School Board.

Mr. Proctor volunteered that the school closing which stung him the most was, W.D. Lowe. Mr. Proctor **did not elaborate** when asked, 'why closing that school still bothered him'?

Asking a few relatives, friends and business associates that were alumni of W.D. Lowe; all of them said that the Board closed the most valuable school in the City of Windsor and they should have never closed Lowe. I asked what made W.D. Lowe valuable:

1. All of them first said no other school in the system had their facilities (Industrial shops, theatre their pool and gym).
2. Secondly, Lowe graduated year in and year out quality trained apprentices, which in turn fed the shops around the city.

3. Lastly, they felt the Board abandoned the core of the City. Lowe was needed in the downtown core because there were no other public high schools in that area (Closed Patterson and Lowe know as of late even Forster).

I asked the same people: how could have the Board saved Lowe?

Some very interesting and creative responses from this cross section of Lowe Alumni:

1. Should have allowed more public access to the school after hours as in one way having night classes. (Interesting you can offer all of the classes. You still need students to sign up, so were the classes relevant?)
2. Swimming classes for the area, workout classes, martial arts classes, dance classes.
3. Rented the theatre to the theatre groups throughout the city that were longing for a facility to stage their productions.
4. Lastly and the most interesting, work with the Unions of the City to continue upgrading and training for the local apprentices.

Interesting all of the above are revenue-generating activities.

Strange, is it not, making money to offset cost.

What I discovered from the Alumnus, when I asked, 'did the board not have public meetings for input'? They could not remember but most said NO or they would have attended. A few said it did not matter what they thought the Board was bound and determined to close Lowe **to save** Kennedy.

Now, let's take a look at the assets of S.C.I.T.S and talk about 2016 replacement costs:

(A Senior Executive of a Top 3 construction company headquartered in Canada supplied the costs. The costs were supplied without drawings and best guess estimates based on past similar projects completed by the company along with my limited description of the facilities within the school.)

1. A 6 lane, 20 meters heated indoor pool, with minimal dressing rooms and shower facilities. Approximately, \$2.750.000.
2. A multi-use gymnasium, hosting basketball, volleyball, badminton, wrestling along with concerts. Minimal dressing rooms and shower facilities and all necessary ancillary sporting requirements and rollup seating for 800 people. Approximately, \$3.900.000.
3. An outdoor sports field with scoreboard and running track. Minimal requirements with stands for 800. Approximately, \$500,000

4. An 850-seat theatre and stage, with balcony, soundboard, green room acoustically appropriate, drapes, lighting and lighting board. This was an interesting number: cost \$, 8,800/seat multiplied by 850 seats = \$7.480.000

Interesting total of replacement cost in 2016 Dollars of \$14,630,000 and that is on the low side because there are no drawings and it is based upon best guessed on current completed projects and my limited ability to explain existing facilities. Question is once we loose these facilities where does the community have the opportunity to get them back? They are, **our tax-dollars??**

Now let us speak to the few, drama and music alumni from SCITS.

These alumni from SCITS and the Revue have found their way locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

We are all proud to hear of SCOTTY from Star Trek and his home is Sarnia and he is a SCITS alumni.

Then there is the local MP that played piano in that 90's political band in Ottawa that graced many a riding.

The current assistant director of K/W symphony is an alumnus of SCITS.

You can see SCITS alumni's in Wal-Mart commercials, and gracing the red carpet at TIFF.

They are in the back stage production facility of the HART HOUSE on the U of T campus.

They are found in L.A., Vancouver, ask Mr. Dan White of his Alumni and where they are at, he will be proud to tell you, one even runs the Capital Theatre venue here in Sarnia.

The most important contribution that the Alumni of this one hundred plus year old school, is that in every international skirmish throughout the 20th Century there were young men that volunteered and made the ultimate sacrifice. There are not to many schools in this province that can say that of their Alumni.

In conclusion all I ask you to do is better understand the value of the asset that you are talking about. Your interesting teeter-totter on your website, that you have everything stacked in the other school's favour is an embarrassment. Truly, who cares about those theoretical figures that are thrown out by the Ministry, they are useless, they do not even make for a representative guideline.

We the public asks you to seriously look at SCITS in a more profitable light and I am sure that you will derive more than profits.

All this from the oldest School in SARNIA!!

