implement a self-assessment tool called “Emergenetics” which gave us a better understanding of each other’s ways of thinking in order to facilitate better team cohesion and collaboration.

Using our profiles on a day to day basis makes a big difference in the ways we interact with each other in order to reach optimal outcomes.

SPEED SKATING PROGRAMS

From a program standpoint our support for the Canadian Olympic Team and Speed Skating Canada was a priority for the entire season. Oval staff remained proactive in supplying services where needed to support coaches, athletes and support staff in their preparation for the 2018 Olympic Games. As a result, seeing an Olympic champion like Ted-Jan Bloemen in the 10,000m was a shared victory, a rewarding feeling for everybody involved on even the smallest level.

2018 PYEONGCHANG OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

On another note our ice making team had the chance to partner with POCOG (Pyeongchang Organizing Committee 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Games) as we provided our expertise to lead the ice making process up to and during the Games. It was a long journey but the relationship that Mark Messer and his team developed over the past few years with the local long track leaders in Gangneung allowed the project to be an overwhelming success in all areas.

While a large part of our operations team was away for much of the season - the remaining operations team members worked hard to maintain the highest skating standard here at home. At the same time Guest Relations, in collaboration with Operations assessed and improved our training environment with major upgrades to the track & weight room. It was a great improvement to the quality of training space for all users.

FINANCIAL ASSETS

Lastly, our three year financial targets were fully met with a 20% revenue increase. We continue to optimize our support to sport development and protect our 1988 Olympic Games legacy from a sustainability point of view.

As the Olympic Oval Director and on behalf of the faculty leadership group, I would like to acknowledge the great accomplishments our team has achieved over this quadrennial. Key objectives were met in all areas and I am proud to be part of such an exciting sport management team. Oval staff, our university, sport partners, sponsors, athletes, users, and of course our volunteers all played an important role in helping to reach all of these successes. Congratulations to each and everyone!

VALUES & SELF ASSESSMENTS

After our 2017 staff retreat we reviewed and recreated our Oval values and made them our own. Passion became the very top priority while Quality, Honesty, Respect and Enjoyment rounded out our team’s five core values. The exercise allowed us to put into words the values which had the most meaning to our #OvalFamily. These values are now shared throughout the building and offices to fully integrate them into our day, guiding our strategies and actions.

At the same retreat, our facilitator helped us to

Another Olympic cycle achieved for the Olympic Oval and our partners!

The 2017-18 season saw the conclusion of the four year Olympic cycle leading to the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympic Winter Games as well as our three year strategic plan developed by Olympic Oval staff and partners. It was a busy year for our team, our users, and our partners. Maintaining our focus on our mission and vision, our team had the chance to pursue excellence and improve our sport business in many different ways.
With over 81% of Canada’s medals having been won by athletes who train in Calgary and Canmore, our province and the Olympic Oval were well represented at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games. Speed skaters Ted-Jan Bloemen, Marsha Hudey, Heather McLean, Vincent De Haître, Ivanie Blondin, Kali Christ, Keri Morrison, Kaylin Irvine, Josie Morrison, Jordan Belchos, Isabelle Weidemann, Gilmore Junio, Ben Donnelly and Denny Morrison all competed in this year’s games thanks to the help of much of the Oval and SSC staff as well as the ability to train on the Fastest Ice in the World.

TED-JAN BLOEMEN
In his Olympic debut, Oval based athlete Ted-Jan Bloemen took home a gold medal in the men’s 10,000m, and a silver medal in the men’s 5000m speed skating events. The Dutch-born thirty-one year-old from Calgary completed the 10,000m race in 12:39.11 breaking opponent Jorrit Bergsma’s Olympic record previously established that day. Bloemen earned his spot on the podium in the 5000m event after recording a time of 6:11.61 (0.002 seconds faster than Norway’s Sverre Lunde Pederson) in twelve and a half laps around the Gangneung Oval.

MARSHA HUDEY & HEATHER MCLEAN
Competing in her second Winter Olympic Games, Marsha Hudey finished 10th in the women’s 500m while her teammate Heather McLean ranked 14th. Coming off a career-best finish at the 2017 World Single Distance Championships, McLean also participated in the women’s 1000m long track event in Pyeongchang where she finished 25th. The 2018 Games rounded out an impressive four years for the pair of former Oval program sprinters as both Hudey and McLean captured their first World Cup medals and skated to some of the fastest 500m times for Canadian women in the last decade.

VINCENT DE HAITRE
Vincent De Haître raced in both the men’s 1000m and 1500m, finishing 19th and 21st respectively. Pyeongchang was the second Olympic appearance for the twenty-three year-old Ottawa native, who also competed in Sochi 2014 where he posted a top 20 1000m event Speed Skating Long Track Star of the Year. De Haître also Men’s Team Sprint Record alongside fellow Olympians Gilmore Junio and Laurent Dubreuil on December 1st, 2017 at World Cup Calgary.

THE COMEBACK KID
With athletes booking their tickets to Pyeongchang there were many great storylines to follow at the 2018 Long Track Team Selections held at the Oval in early January. One of the most compelling stories came as Denny Morrison made his amazing return to the Olympics after rehabbing from a pair of life and career threatening incidents. Helping Morrison along the way was his wife and former Oval program athlete Josie Morrison, who herself qualified for her first Olympic Games. Denny would place 13th in the 1500m and 7th as part of the Team Pursuit. Josie finished 21st in the women’s 1500m and helped the Canadian women’s Team Pursuit to a 4th overall finish.

JAMIE MACDONALD
Inspired after attending an Olympic Oval speed skating summer training camp, MacDonald began her short track career as part of what was then known as the Oval program. Since then she has gone on to become a member of the Canadian national team, was the only Western Canadian to compete with the short track team in Korea 2018.

ISABELLE WEIDEMANN & BEN DONNELLY
Two proud members of our #OvalFamily who made their Olympic debuts this season were Isabelle Weidemann and Ben Donnelly who both qualified to skate in Korea. Weidemann continued her climb as one of the rising stars in the sport in Korea. The 2014 Canadian Junior Champion from Ottawa skated to a 4th place finish in the Team Pursuit, 6th place in the 5000m and 7th place in the 3000m in her first Olympics. Donnelly, also a former Canadian Junior Champion and a World Junior Champion, made a splash with a 51st place performance in the 1500m and 7th place finish as part of the Canadian team in the Team Pursuit. Both athletes are former recipients of the Intact Insurance Olympic Oval Athlete Bursaries.
OVAL CLASS ICE

The Olympic Oval was pleased to host, on behalf of Speed Skating Canada, ISU World Cup Speed Skating Calgary in early December. This was the largest World Cup event ever held at the Oval with 283 athletes from 34 countries taking to the Fastest Ice in The World in one of the final large scale International events prior to the Olympic Games.

Canada collected a total of four medals at World Cup Calgary. Alex Boisvert-Lacroix earned his first ever gold medal on a national stage in the men’s 500m race, while Gilmore Junio, Laurent Dubreuil, and Vincent De Haltre teamed up for a World Record gold medal performance in the Team Sprint. Ted-Jan Bloemen won the lone silver medal for Canada in the 5000m, with Ivanie Blondin, Kali Christ, and Isabelle Weidemann winning bronze in the Women’s Team Pursuit.

The weekend saw three other new World Records set, the Women’s Team Pursuit record was set by Team Japan; Ayaka Kikuchi, Miho Takagi and her sister Nana Takagi, a record which Team Japan would shatter in the 2018 Olympics a few months later en route to Team Pursuit gold. A Women’s 1500m Junior World Record was set by Allan Dahl Johansson of Norway and a Men’s 1000m Junior World Record was set by Chung Jae-Woong of Korea.

Attendance for the weekend topped 5000 fans. The Intact School of Speed had another successful event. With the support of Intact Insurance, the Oval was able to welcome over 2300 Calgary area elementary and middle school students to see the world’s elite compete.
Many of our Oval skaters competed in events this year to showcase their skills against the world’s best. With World Juniors, World Cups and the Olympics – all of our #OvalFamily was given the opportunity to display their talent on the international stage this season.

2018 ISU WORLD JUNIOR SHORT TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS
In March, Oval skaters Marco Schumann (Saskatoon, SK), Vincent Girard (Ville de Saguenay, QC) and Adrian Rudy (Toronto, ON) skated for Canada at the 2018 ISU World Junior Short Track Championships in Tomaszow Mazoviecki, Poland. For Schumann it was his second trip to World Juniors while it was a first for both Girard and Rudy. Rudy qualified by taking home the 2017-18 Canadian Men’s Junior Championship. Rudy finished 36th overall while Girard and Schumann ended the competition in 27th and 22nd place respectively.

2018 ISU WORLD JUNIOR SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Also in March, reigning Canadian Junior Champions Brooklyn McDougall and Tyson Langelaar led a talented Canadian team into competition at the 2018 ISU World Junior Long Track Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah. McDougall and Langelaar were crowned 2018 Canadian Junior Champions following their performances at the Canadian Junior Championships in Fort St. John in February.

Canada’s team at World Juniors had a local flair with three Albertans on the Canadian team; McDougall and Connor Howe of Calgary returning for their second World Juniors and Oval athlete Kaleb Muller of Cranford, AB competing in his first World Junior Championships. Langelaar, a Winnipeg native signed on to train with the Oval full-time this season. He won a silver medal after finishing second overall in the men’s long track standings and set a new personal best in both the 1000m and 5000m races.

2018 CANADIAN SHORT TRACK JUNIOR SELECTIONS #2
The 2018 Canadian Short Track Junior Selections #2 had a venue change to WinSport following a mechanical failure at the Oval which forced the early shut down of the ice plant. Seven Oval skaters competed in the women’s division with the highlight being Hee Won Son’s 1st place finish in the final rankings. She was followed closely by Flavie Laroche-Roy sitting at 4th, Abbey Young 11th, Caitlin Pelkey 13th, and Victoria Goplen 24th. In the men’s final rankings for the 2018 Short Track Junior Selections five Oval skaters cracked the top 25, with Brendan Yamada taking the number 12 spot. He was joined on the podium by Matej Pederson 3rd, followed by Ethan McKenzie-Young 8th, Neithan Thomas 18th, and Mitchell Schrum 22nd.

2017 EVO INTERCONTINENTAL SHORT TRACK INVITATIONAL
The Olympic Oval hosted the third annual Evo Intercontinental Short Track Invitational in October of 2017. The weekend belonged to Courtney Sarault and Maxim Laoun who were able to take home the 2017 titles in their respective events. Oval skater and Calgary native Keil Hillis was the top Western Canadian performer with a third overall finish in the men’s division. Hillis proved he could skate with the country’s best as he qualified for all three A finals and fought for a second place finish in the 500m.

Short track athletes hailing from six countries were represented including – China, Japan, India, Austria, the USA and Canada. The field included two teams of Canadian skaters, one based out of Montreal, Quebec and the other from the Calgary Oval program.

CALGARY TEAM:
Maggie Beynon (Barrie, ON), Hannah Clark (Yellowknife, NWT), Alison Desmarais (Vanderhoof, BC), Jamie Lee (Fort St. John, BC), Hee Won Son (Calgary, AB), Abbey Young (Calgary, AB), Flavie Laroche-Roy (Saint Felicien, QC) *Alternate, Vincent Girard (Chicoutimi, QC), Keil Hills (Calgary, AB), Jackson Hunter (Calgary, AB), Adrian Rudy (Toronto, ON), Marco Schumann (Saskatoon, SK), Brendan Yamada (Calgary, AB), Matej Pederson (Maple Ridge, BC) *Alternate.

FROM SHORT TRACK TO KOREA
Olympian and former Oval program athlete Keri Morrison made an amazing transition over the past two seasons as she moved from the National Short Track development team to the Long Track development team. Morrison was not only successful in qualifying for Canada’s World Cup team, she also proudly donned the maple leaf at the 2018 Olympic Games.
2017-2018 was a great year for multiple Dinos Athletics programs and their athletes. The women’s rugby team, volleyball team and men’s football team each won Canada West titles in their sports, and the men’s basketball team won the University of Calgary’s first-ever U Sports national championship in school history. The Olympic Oval is honoured to serve as a training facility for many Dinos athletes as they better themselves on the road to success. We are proud to consider them all a part of our #OvalFamily.

Temitope Ogunjimi

Headlining the award winners for this year’s “Night of the Dino” athletic awards banquet was women’s rugby player and wrestling team member Temitope Ogunjimi, who won the U Sports All-Canadian award in rugby, as well as Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year for her success in both athletic programs.

WOMEN’S RUGBY CANADA WEST CHAMPIONSHIP

The Dinos women’s rugby team capped off an impressive undefeated regular season with a win in the Canada West Championship game against the University of Victoria Vikings to earn their second Canada West title in back-to-back seasons. Rookie scrum half Berlyn Seselja’s try with no time on the clock led the Dinos to victory as they defeated the Vikes by a score of 26-21 at McMahon stadium.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Coming off a ten game winning streak to end the regular season, the Dinos women’s volleyball team had all the confidence in the world heading in to the playoffs. They defeated the Mount Royal University Cougars and University of Alberta Pandas in the first two rounds of the playoffs to advance to the Canada West Championship game, where they beat the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds by a score of 3-1 to win the title.

DINOS FOOTBALL HARDY CUP WIN

The 2017 Dinos football team squared off against rival University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in the 81st Hardy Cup at McMahon Stadium to determine who would be crowned Canada West Champions. With under five seconds to go in the 4th quarter, Dinos kicker Niko DiFonte converted on an incredible 59-yard field goal to seal the win for his team. DiFonte’s miracle kick on the last play of the game was the longest in U Sports history, breaking Jerry Foster’s previous record of 57-yards set in 1986.

LET THE DINOS OUT OF THE CAGE!

The Oval made moves to increase its training capacity this year with the addition of new weight cages to the south side of the sprint pads. This new area had it’s largest impact with the Dinos varsity athletes, in particular the Hardy Cup winning football team who are the primary users of this space.
COMMUNITY

With its unique atmosphere and state-of-the-art ice, the Olympic Oval is not only a popular venue for athletes and speed skating fans, but also members of the community. This season the Oval continued to build its legacy by hosting multiple local events to give back to the community and allowing individuals to truly feel what it’s like to skate on the Fastest Ice in the World.

INTACT OVAL BURSARIES

The Calgary Olympic Oval awarded 13 Intact Insurance Olympic Oval Athlete Bursaries for the 2017-18 season. Since its inception in 2005, the Intact Oval Bursary Fund has supported over 100 athletes with over $171,000 in support of their quest for excellence in the sports of speed skating, cycling and female hockey. Congratulations went out to Sam Deckert (Winnipeg, MB), Vincent Girard (Ville de Saguenay, QC), Jacob Graham (Dawson Creek, BC), Carolina Hiller (Prince George, BC), Jonah Hurtubise (Aylmer, QC), Keil Hillis (Calgary, AB), Kaylin Irvine (Calgary, AB), Jamie Lee (Fort St. John, BC), Josie Morrison (Kamloops, BC), Keri Morrison (Burlington, ON), Matej Pederson (Calgary, AB), Jake Weidemann (Ottawa, ON) and Brendan Yamada (Calgary, AB). Irvine, Josie Morrison and Keri Morrison competed for Canada at the 2018 Olympic games. Other notable past recipients of Intact Oval bursaries include current and former Canadian National team long and short track athletes, such as, 2018 Olympians Ben Donnelly, Heather McLean and Isabelle Weidemann, Olympic medalist Marie-Eve Drolet and 3-time Olympian Brittany Schussler. The Oval would like to thank all of the 2017-18 supporters of the Intact Insurance Olympic Oval Athlete Bursary fund including Intact Insurance & Nick’s Steakhouse.

30TH ANNIVERSARY BBQ

Since opening in 1987, the Oval has become one of Calgary’s most popular landmarks. This past September the Olympic Oval celebrated its 30th anniversary (and the anniversary of the Calgary ’88 Olympics) by hosting a special event for staff, athletes, and national team members.

SERVUS CREDIT UNION FREE FAMILY DAY SKATE

The Olympic Oval invited the public to take part in the annual Servus Credit Union Free Family Day Skate last February. Featuring free admission and parking, over 1700 people attended this year’s event!

PUBLIC SKATING

The Oval is always proud to welcome community members to experience The Fastest Ice in the World for themselves. Typically offering more than 50 public skating sessions per month, skating on our 400-metre ice surface this year was a popular activity for the public and a great way to get involved in the community!
NEW LOOK

In January of 2017 the Olympic Oval refreshed its visual identity to better represent the facility and its ties to the University of Calgary and Faculty of Kinesiology.

Since then the Oval has made some significant changes to the look of the building while maintaining the tradition of a legacy facility.

THE HALL OF CHAMPIONS

The Hall of Champions was rebranded and moved to a place of prominence in the central rafters of the Oval. The Hall of Champions is a celebration of Canadian speed skating athletes who have trained at the Olympic Oval and become Olympic Medalists - upon their retirement from the sport. This past season at World Cup Calgary, 6-time Olympic Medalist Cindy Klassen became the ninth inductee to the Hall of Champions.

COME AND SEE HOW GOOD WE LOOK

From the building pillars, to the vision and mission statements, to the new Fastest Ice in the World backdrops and the development of a new videoboard (coming in 2018) the building is undergoing several changes to update the imaging to match the new branding.

The Oval made a huge step forward in our online presence working with University of Calgary Marketing, University Relations and Information Technology to develop a new website. The website project is ongoing, but the February 2018 launch was the culmination of two and a half years of development and has been received very well by the Oval community.

The Oval also continued to grow our online presence with an enhanced quality webcast. Despite only being able to webcast four out of five planned events (with the cancellation of Finale) the Oval once again showed growth in viewership for each of the individual events. Oval social media accounts also showed significant growth for the fourth year in a row.

The Olympic Oval remains a unique University of Calgary facility operated with the support of its legacy partners WinSport, the Government of Canada and the University of Calgary.

Webcast Play-by-Play team, Leo Landry and Gavin Day
Jesse Puljujarvi, Edmonton Oilers
Freddie and Dougie Hamilton, Calgary Flames
David Kapinga, UCalgary Dinos, USports National Champions

Cindy Klassen, Hall of Champions ceremony