

Turning up the volume at NH arena

BY KRISTENA SCHUTT-MOORE

Staff

The North Hastings Community Centre, known locally as the arena, is getting a little brighter and a lot louder. This is all thanks to Northern Rural Net who has agreed to help the arena with their lighting and sound system.

The project started last year with the announcement of a Junior A hockey team coming to Bancroft and NRN became one of the Bancroft Rockhounds sponsors. "We just wanted to help our team and our town," explains NRN field manager Andy Crawford.

They started with putting new speakers in the arena and finished setting up the soundboard in time for the Rockhound's home game on Saturday, Nov. 23. This new system will be used not only by the Rockhounds but the different Jets hockey leagues, the Bancroft Figure Skating Club, and by the community who use the arena for different events, such as the Rockhound Gembores.

The improved system will help keep the noise from the players and referees allowing them better focus on the game

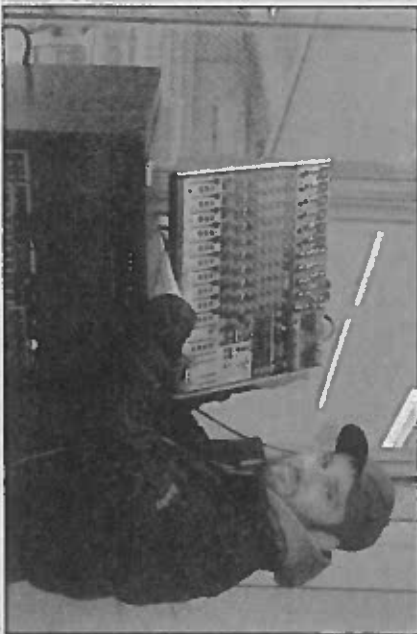
while allowing those in the stands to hear the caller's commentary. It will also allow for other features such as phones and computers to be plugged in for music and entertainment during other events. There will be six speakers and three subwoofers out on the ice along with new sound boards, amps and microphones in the sound booth.

"We want to make it real simple for all the volunteers to use. Basically plug-in and play," says Crawford. However instruction manuals and labels are being created for those who will be running the equipment to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

The lighting will be put in place after the ice is let out in the spring, for the safety of workers who will be putting the systems in place. The lighting will include different features such as spotlights, pre-programmable moving lights, coloured lighting, and a lighting control board in the sound booth.

"We are doing this as a way to put more than just sound in. It's to get the community involved," explains Crawford. "We want people here supporting the kids. Whether it's the Junior A Rockhounds or the Bancroft Jets or figure skating club.

we want people to come out and help support the community centre. It's also our way of giving back to the community and help in any way we can."



North Hastings Community Centre's new sound board is put into place and set up by Northern Rural Net's field manager Andy Crawford.