

Plans galore for arenas



The greater Vernon area currently has one ice surface and if talk means anything, which it usually does not, there will be no less than four arenas in this area within three years.

A Revelstoke interest has made the most concrete step towards constructing an arena in Coldstream.

Coldstream seems like a logical place to build an arena because of the high rate of growth and large number of children.

With a little luck and a lot of planning, Coldstream could have its own arena soon.

City of Vernon apparently wants to build an arena but it is not yet sure where, when, or how big to build it.

Rumor has the arena being constructed on property near the recreation centre. Seating capacity will probably be in the neighborhood of 4,500, but, completion date will likely be 1977.

There is no question the city badly needs a new rink but there is a question in my mind as to where the city is going to find 4,500 people to sit in the arena.

THE LATEST IDEA

The latest arena scheme, being prepared by a local, anonymous, businessman, calls for a 5,000 seat arena to be ready for the 1975-76 hockey season.

Vernon Vikings' directors are excited about the prospect of having a facility of this type to play in. But, to construct a building of that size, the cost would be in the vicinity of \$3 million.

Operated as a private venture, it would take a lot of ice rentals at \$25 per hour to recover that amount.

THE PROPER SCHEME

No one seems to know who will be the first to make the big move and build an arena but I think they could learn from what has taken place on the coast.

The Four-rinks complex in Burnaby has been an enormous success. The Tri-rinks complex in Langley has had almost equal success. Both complexes were built with a minimum amount of seats.

What Vernon needs is a facility with two ice surfaces under one roof. If the current arena is going to be torn down, obviously the new rink must have an adequate amount of seating.

Since senior hockey left Vernon, the times Vernon Civic Arena has been filled to capacity, can be counted on one hand. Therefore, 3,000 seats would be adequate.

The adjacent ice surface would need only two rows of seats around the perimeter so parents can watch their children play minor hockey.

Perhaps all the groups planning arenas should get together and combine their efforts and exchange ideas, or else, in three years we will still be hearing about the arena we are going to have.