

Ag society raising money for arena improvements

BY Craig Lindsay, MVP Staff

CREMONA – The Cremona and District Agricultural Society is busy planning for the coming year. Foremost among their plans is raising money for make improvements at the Cremona Arena, which they own and operate.

Jamie Veres, a longtime director with the ag society, said the group needs to raise around \$2.5 million to make all the arena renovations.

“We have two storeys so we need to become wheelchair accessible,” said Veres. “We need to upgrade the wash-room facilities in our existing dressing rooms. We’d like to put in a concession where you can serve food. Right now we just have hand sinks. We’d like to be able to add on more dressing rooms so girls have a place to change rather than in the public washroom downstairs.”

The ag society is hosting a hockey game between the Cremona firefighters

and the local hockey coaches on March 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the arena with events starting at 5 p.m.

The society has received a promise from Mountain View County for half a million dollars over two years for the arena improvements.

“We’re looking at getting grants for the rest of it,” she said. “We’re looking at doing some fundraising as well.”

The ag society also has portable livestock panels for rent.

“If someone needs to move some cattle and they don’t have a set of pens to put them in we’ve got portable panels to rent,” she said. For more information call the arena at 403-637-3806.

In the past several years the ag society has made repairs at the arena including replacing the heating system, rebuilding the Zamboni and rebuilding the ice plant and compressor system.

“We’ve done \$500,000 worth of renovations in the last six years,” she said.