

**VMHA**

# Arena takeover by minors—possible

A spokesman for the Vernon Minor Hockey Association informed The Vernon News that since negotiations in the current strike of civic employees have not yet reached an agreement, the VMHA has plans to take over the lease of the Vernon Civic Arena from the city of Vernon.

"This would only be for the duration of the current strike," the spokesman said. "We really don't want to steal any jobs from the city workers, so we would drop the lease as soon as possible after the end of the walkout."

With this in mind, the VMHA would be employing their own staff, and the civic workers would have no reason, or right, to set up picket lines outside the arena.

It is also reported that certain members of the Vernon City Council are in favor of an arrangement of this nature. The city holds the original lease for the arena property.

Still no comment could be made on the up-coming game with the Kamloops Rockets which is slated for Sunday at 2 p.m. Up to now, the Rockets have re-

fused to cross the CUPE picket line to play against the Essos.

If the lease arrangement can be made by the Minor Hockey Association before the weekend, the Rockets would obviously have no reason to hold back from the Vernon area.

When asked for his comment on the situation, Vernon Essos Manager Vern Dye said, "It's a darn good idea to take over the lease." "In this way we won't be interfering with the civic workers and they won't be interfering with us."

The main idea of the lease take-over will be to raise the attendance and participation of the Minor Hockey activities.

Everyone concerned with the proposed Minor Hockey take-over of the arena was adamant in their assurance that the lease would be released as soon as possible when the strike was settled.

One spokesman mentioned a 24-hour notice clause in the lease, which would allow an almost immediate return to city control once the strike had been settled.

Essos manager Vern Dye felt sure that the Kamloops Rockets would be on hand for their Sunday encounter with the Vernon team.

This is how sure he feels that the lease proposal will be accepted by the Minor Hockey Association and the City Council.

## **Mowat, Merritt**

# Two newcomers join Essos

The flagging Vernon Junior Essos Hockey Club will be bolstered for the weekend contests by the addition of two new players.

Jim Mowatt who joined the team for last Saturday night's contest against the Kelowna Buckaroos will be returning to make his home in Vernon and become a welcome addition to the defence department of the team.

Mowatt, who is 19 years old, weighs 175 pounds. Last season he played with the powerful Grandview Steelers in the Vancouver Junior "B" league. He comes to Vernon with a great deal of hockey knowledge, having just finished with the big Saskatoon and Brandon hockey camps.

Essos' manager Vern Dye, also announced the addition of Gordon Merritt from Prince George.

Merritt attended the Vernon Essos' camp at the beginning of the season and made a very good impression on everyone concerned with organizing the team.

Said Dye, "He's a big kid and really looks good on the ice. The fact that he's only 15 years old and shows a lot of potential

makes this fellow a hot prospect."

Being just 15 now, gives young Merritt a good four years left in junior hockey.

The fact that Gordon Merritt will be given free room and board by a Vernon hockey fan was also one of the deciding factors in recalling him from Prince George.

"We have to bring along the team with as low a budget as possible," commented the team manager.

With these bright new additions to the club, the Esso's hope to put up a much better show against the powerful Penticton Broncos in a home-and-home series Friday and Saturday night.

Friday's game will be at the Vernon Civic arena beginning at 8:30 p.m. The team will then travel to Penticton for the Saturday game with the Broncos.

The Esso's will once again be playing without the services of Bob Mayer, who is out of action with torn ligaments; and Don Manson who received a broken jaw during the game with New Westminster Royals which was held in Salmon Arm.

# **Junior 'B' schedule released**

The Vernon Junior "B" hockey club will play its first game of the season on Kamloops ice, Saturday Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.

The league schedule was released this week by schedule chairman John Bruce.

<b>JUNIOR "B"</b>	
V at K, Nov. 2, 7:00	
K at V, Nov. 9, 8:30	
P at M, Nov. 10, 2:00	
K at P, Nov. 15, 8:30	
M at *K, Nov. 17, 4:30	
V at *K, Nov. 21, 8:00	
V at M, Nov. 24, 2:00	
P at K, Nov. 24, 4:30	
M at P, Nov. 30, 8:30	
V at P, Dec. 7, 8:30	
*K at K, Dec. 7, 9:00	
*K at P, Dec. 14, 8:30	
P at *K, Dec. 19, 8:00	
K at M, Dec. 21, 8:30	
P at V, Dec. 29, 4:20	
Kam. at Kel., Dec. 29, 4:30	
*K at V, Jan. 4, 8:30	
M at K, Jan. 11, 9:00	
M at V, Jan. 12, 4:20	
K at M, Jan. 19, 2:00	
* Kelowna	
K. Kamloops	
P. Penticton	
V. Vernon	
M. Merritt	

How soon the lease arrangement can be made is anyone's guess, but most opinions would seem to favor a changeover by late today or early Friday.

Should this be the case, then the civic workers will remove their pickets from the arena property at the same time.

Nova Scotia's Voluntary Economic Plan for industrial development hopes to generate 3,400 new jobs annually.

# **Women curlers start season**

The "roaring game" gets under way for the women's afternoon curling group on Nov. 5 at the Vernon Curling Club.

A schedule of play was drawn up at a well-attended meeting in the club lounge on Oct. 16.

Publicity representative for the afternoon curlers, Win Passmore, informed The Vernon News that the deadline for entries will be Monday, Oct. 28.

The members will curl on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, and anyone wishing further information is asked to call Thelma Trickett at 2-7240 or Marg Balcombe at 2-4786.

Mrs. Passmore also announced that ice will be available for practice and new curler instruction from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1.

# Quechuck tops Esso scorers

Lawrence Quechuck is currently way up front in the Vernon Esso's individual scoring race. Close behind, is Jack Marsh, the sturdy left winger who is playing his first season with the Essos.

Here are the players with their goal and assist standings to date:

Player	G	A	TP
Quechuck .....	10	8	18
J. Marsh .....	7	6	13
W. Dye .....	3	9	12
B. Tarnow .....	1	4	5
D. Marsh .....	0	5	5
G. Vachon .....	4	0	4
D. Manson .....	1	3	4
B. Mayor .....	1	3	4
D. Waite .....	0	2	2
B. Craig .....	1	0	1
J. Wilson .....	0	1	1
J. Mowat .....	0	1	1