

# DEBT THREATENS VIKINGS' FUTURE

By **LANCE BESWICK**  
Daily News Writer

The future of the Vikings Junior Hockey team in Vernon is threatened by a \$5,597 debt.

The club is being told that unless the cash — owed for the use of the rink last season — is paid soon, it will not be given any ice use this year.

Vernon City Council unanimously took this decision Tuesday despite an appeal by manager Joe Tennant for a personal meeting with Mayor Stuart Fleming.

The Mayor told council he wanted a decision made before he met Tennant.

Tennant's meeting was due today. Before he went he claimed the club was paying three times more than any other group using the ice facilities.

"We're paying \$300 a game — and other people pay a great deal less. We use the ice

for about four hours, and the rental charged to other people is \$27 an hour, which is a third of what we're charged.

"All I want is a fair break, but if they don't want junior hockey in this town that's fine by me."

And Tennant said that there would be a shareholders meeting soon to consider the future of the Vikings in Vernon. "The club itself isn't threatened, but it doesn't need to operate from here any more," he said.

"I like it here, but we don't want to continue to provide entertainment for the citizens and pay for it out of our own pocket.

But after meeting the Mayor, Tennant said: "I'm very pleased with the outcome. The Mayor's arranged for me to meet the council next week. He explained to me that the council's decision was more or less a formality, and I'm hoping now that there may be some negotiations."