

# Boy enjoys hockey camp



Just a few months ago John Graves was killed when hit by a motorcycle, while walking down a road.

John, as most people in the Vernon area know, was a fine athlete. In his memory, the Graves family was going to donate a trophy to minor hockey.

However, the family changed its mind and decided to send a boy to the Team Canada Hockey College, in Victoria, for the next five years.

Marj Graves said, "We felt a trophy would just sit on a shelf, while a boy can get a great deal out of attending hockey school."

This year, Kevin Aeichele was the boy selected, by Vernon Minor Hockey Association, to attend the school.

Mrs. Graves said, "We don't want the boy with the most talent to go. We want someone who otherwise could not afford to go, and someone who will work hard and make the most of their ability."

Aeichele, 12, has four brothers and sisters, and in all likelihood, would not have been able to attend a summer hockey school if it wasn't for the Graves family.

It is a time in his life he will never forget. Besides the thrill of meeting, and learning from, NHL players like Andre Boudrias, Mike Corrigan, and Charlie Hodge, he did a lot of growing up.

Julien Crockett, one of the college directors, said, "Kevin is a great kid. He's quiet, but fits in and works really hard."

Besides about three hours of hockey each day, the boys play soccer and tennis, go swimming, do off-ice exercises, and in general, keep busy.

Crockett said, "It is not only our aim to make each boy a better defenceman, but also a better person."

Kevin Aeichele is a happier boy thanks to the Graves' donation, and in the next four years, four more boys will be made a little happier.

## LEAGUE REVAMPED

One league's loss is another's gain.

After a dismal 1975-76 season, things are looking up for the North Okanagan Hockey League.

With the addition of Lumby Flying Frenchmen, the loop is expanding from four to five teams.

City of Vernon took over operation of the NOHL last year, and made a lot of mistakes. Hopefully the city has learned its lesson and the league will flourish during the winter of 1976-77.

When played properly, there is no form of amateur hockey more entertaining than intermediate, as all the old fans remember. The NOHL could provide that type of entertainment in the North Okanagan.

Meanwhile, Frenchmen have left the struggling Monashee Hockey League.

It has also been reported the financially-troubled Nakusp Falcons have dropped out of the Monashee loop, leaving just four teams.

Vernon Vikings' new coach Gerry Wenman had hoped to enter an Armstrong team in the league, but scrapped the plan when ice rentals went up at the Armstrong Arena.

So, Revelstoke, Grindrod, Salmon Arm and Golden are on their own. The league's big problem started when Salmon Arm started paying high travelling expenses to players. Nothing will ruin an amateur sport faster than money.

Because Vernon had no team in the Monashee League, Grindrod, Salmon Arm, and Lumby always battled for the prime products from Vernon. Salmon Arm became more attractive to the players because of the expense money, and Lumby obviously became tired of that game.