

Bucks heading south?

Kelowna Buckaroos have received formal approval from the B.C. Junior Hockey League to sell the franchise to a Summerland group headed by Gibb Cyr.

The team would then relocate in Summerland.

Buckaroos received league permission to move the club last summer after Kelowna Wings, of the Western Hockey League, moved into town. Friday's approval was to reaffirm the earlier decision.

Wayne North, owner and general manager of the Buckaroos, said nothing firm will be done on the sale until next month.

Vernon Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye said he is not in favor of the move. "I'd like to see the team stay in Kelowna," Dye said, "but I guess North doesn't feel he can overcome the obstacles facing him."

Besides battling for spectators, the Wings and Buckaroos are also competing for prime ice time in Kelowna Memorial Arena.

Dye said, "If the sale goes through, it will require a final approval at our annual meeting next month."

Penticton Knights objected to the move because they feel Summerland is too close to their marketing area.