

VERNON LAKERS SOLD

By **DON KENDALL**
Daily News Sports Editor

Vernon Lakers Junior Hockey Club president and owner Ray (Dick) Williment announced today that he has sold the team.

Businessmen Bud Russell, of Vernon, and Carl Enemark, of Penticton, purchased the team for an undisclosed sum, believed to be about \$40,000. Williment bought the club in April, 1982, for \$12,000.

The sale is subject to approval of the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Board of Governors. However, both of the new owners have an extensive hockey background and the approval is expected to be only a formality.

Enemark, who will be the team president, served as president of the Peace Cariboo Junior Hockey League for two seasons; with Russell, operated the



BUD RUSSELL
... new owner

Quesnel Millionaires Junior Team for six years; and was a shareholder

with Penticton Knights, of the BCJHL, during the 1982-83 season.

SOLD SHARES

Enemark has sold his shares in the Knights, has his Penticton home for sale, and plans to move to Vernon to oversee the operation of the Lakers.

"We've been involved in hockey for many years," Enemark said. "We feel fortunate that Ray decided to sell to us. I know he had three legitimate offers to purchase the team.

"I'm quite familiar with the operation of the Lakers because I was in Vernon about 12 times last season to watch my son play. We want to carry on the good tradition of junior hockey in Vernon."

Enemark's son, Mike, was named to the BCJHL Interior Division all-star team as a defenceman.

Williment said he decided to sell the team about a



CARL ENEMARK
... experienced

week ago. "I'm getting involved in a business and I know I won't have time for

both business and hockey," he said. "I'm confident the new owners will do an excellent job."

Williment was involved in a controversy last month when he fired Coach Murray Lawrence. Many players sided with Lawrence and threatened not to return next season unless he was reinstated. However, Williment said that incident did not influence his decision to sell.

"It had nothing to do with it," he said. "This was strictly a business decision."

Enemark said no coach or manager will be named until the sale is formally approved by league governors, in about three weeks. "Any announcement before that time would be premature."

Lakers placed second in the Interior Division during the 1982-83 campaign, one point behind first-place Kelowna Buckaroos.