

Arena parking is a problem



Summer's a write-off it seems . . . let's talk hockey.

Jumping the gun you say? Six weeks Bucko and we'll be up to our stocking garters (Cooperalls) in the national sport.

Besides, with hockey schools due to open in just about every major city and town in the valley, it is not that far out of line.

Speaking of hockey schools brings me around to a certain local issue concerning Vernon Civic Arena . . . parking, or the lack thereof.

Now maybe I'm just a boy from the prairies spouting off about lack of wide open spaces but it seems to me that in every other town I've been in, the local arena is surrounded by a broad expanse, suitable for parking the family car and adequate for everyone who wants to see what's going on inside the building.

Anyone who's been to the Civic Arena knows that you leave early unless you don't mind hiking a considerable distance when, and if you managed to park the beast somewhere.

OPEN SPACE

In view of the fact that an abundance of wide open space exists immediately adjacent to the arena on the east side, and a further expanse of unused land lies kitty-corner on the south side, why does the problem exist?

The fact remains, Vernon Civic Arena contains seating capacity for about 2,500 people, but adequate parking facilities for about 200.

The city doesn't own the land bordering Civic Arena, because if it did, no doubt it would have been incorporated into the original plans for the arena.

In its present state, the vacant land in question is quite useless. In order for it to accommodate automobiles, it would have to be cleared, levelled, and resurfaced at the very least.

AN EYESORE

It's possible the idea has been tossed around from time to time and nothing done about it due to the cost involved. However, in the opinion of this writer it would be money well spent since the property, as it now exists, is nothing short of an eyesore and the act of improving it in this case would serve to alleviate both this problem and the parking question.

The man who stands to be affected most by such a decision is Carl Enemark, co-owner of the Vernon Lakers Junior Hockey Club. Enemark, however, doesn't want to compromise his present position by griping about anything at this time.

Having only recently moved to Vernon following his purchase of the club, along with partner Bud Russell, Enemark feels he would be better off leaving that can of worms unopened and it's not hard to accept this logic.

SAME RENTAL

In a recent conversation with Enemark, the Lakers' owner and general manager stated his pleasure with the city at having "held the line" where rental fees are concerned. The hourly rental for the building, as well as the amount per game rental, will remain the same for the new owners . . . at least for the present time.

Even though Enemark feels he is too new to this city to make any waves about a subject before he has had the opportunity to assess the situation, obviously the day will come when the new team owners are going to realize the nature of this problem.

With travelling costs greatly reduced this season due to the abandonment of an interlocking schedule with the Coastal Division of the BCJHL, every team in the league could have a decent year monetarily with clubs such as the Lakers looking at a chance to get in the black.

The importance of having a junior hockey club in this city is a topic that has been discussed before so it's not necessary to dwell on the far-reaching positive aspects. It's enough to say Vernon wants, and needs, the Lakers so why not make every effort to ensure their success.

Success, in this case, means not only on the ice but at the gate as well. A lack of adequate parking could mean the difference to a lot of potential hockey fans hovering over the decision of whether or not to attend a local game. Knowing that they may have to park on a side-street anywhere up to a half dozen blocks from the arena certainly weights the situation on the negative side for these people.

A simple decision at this point in the year would rectify the situation for the upcoming season.

COMPONENT SYSTEM

Hockey school starts Aug. 2



VILLAGE RACQUETBALL
Manager Gregg Caufield has announced the centre will add two racquetball courts this year. The

expansion will make Village Racquetball the third largest facility of its type in the valley.

(Daily News Photo)

Racquet club plans expansion

Village Racquetball, located on 53rd Avenue in Vernon, will expand next week.

turn people away in the winter. Our business from September to April justifies the expansion."

Club Manager Gregg Caufield

Only a few days remain for youngsters wishing to enrol in the annual Vernon Summer Hockey School, scheduled to get under way Aug. 2 and run through to Aug. 19.

The school is open to anyone who wishes to either expand their knowledge and basic skills in the sport or, who simply wishes to get fit for the upcoming season since the schools "component" system features a course geared for all.

"I consider the school to have four components," said Vernon summer hockey school founder and chief executer Tom Williamson.

The four components include sessions for groups ranging in ages from eight to 14 years; 15, 16, 17, and 18 years (junior development camp); beginners and intermediate oldtimers; and conditioning school for youngsters 8-16 years of age.

The first components, 8-14 year old kids, will be directed in sessions running Aug. 2 to 20 while the junior development group will take to the ice Aug. 2 through 12. The oldtimers will run in two groups with the beginners Aug. 2-6 and intermediates Aug. 15-19. Conditioning school is operational from Sept. 11 to 23.

Like all hockey schools, the Vernon camp expands on a youngster's basic skills and techniques utilizing the services of instructors.

However, unlike many hockey schools, the Vernon sessions include a certain measure of fitness and weight training orientations.

"They're not necessarily a muscle workout, but a demonstration of technique as well as some basic weight training," said Williamson.

Though success can never be guaranteed, Williamson's methods do carry a high degree of approval since he has been the veteran of many summer hockey camps previous to starting this one.

Previous to Vernon, Williamson taught at the University of British Columbia hockey school for six years and also instructed at Sarcee Seven Chiefs Reserve Hockey School, just outside of Calgary.

The reserve school especially sticks out in Williamson's mind for one special reason. "We had all the kids billeted in teepees," he said.

In addition to his teaching experience, Williamson also carries a pair of UBC degrees to add to his credits. One is a bachelor degree in physical education while the second is a masters degree in physiology.

Williamson was a former member of Vernon Junior Essos and played three years at UBC before being drafted by Ottawa Nationals, of the now-defunct World Hockey Association. He was sent to Flint Generals, of the International League. Williamson joins forces with the likes of Dan Galbraith, a highly touted hockey school mogul who has previous experience with schools run by Howie Meeker and Phil Esposito. In addition,



TOM WILLIAMSON
... director

local instructors Kenny Holland, who just signed a new contract with Detroit Red Wings, and Marty Stein of Vernon Cougars, will be available as well.

Youngsters at the Vernon school receive plenty of daily ice and playing time and also receive dryland training (Russian style) swim sessions, recreational games and fitness testing. Among the highlights are Stanley Cup game films and other instructional films. The sessions wind-down with a special exhibition game and presentations each Saturday.

Although the school itself has always been, and likely will remain, very popular, the biggest drawing card to date has been the early September conditioning school.

Local teams in tournament

Three Vernon teams are entered in the fourth annual Shuswap Men's Soccer Tournament this weekend in Salmon Arm.

Sixteen clubs, including National Hotel Oldtimers, Longhorn Leghorns, and Coldstream Hotel Wolves will compete for \$1,200 prize money.

Other teams are entered from Salmon Arm (3), Williams Lake (3), Kamloops (2), Penticton, Kelowna, Revelstoke, Mission, and Prince George.

"It's become one of the most popular tournaments in the province," said tournament chairman Wayne March. "The 16 berths filled up fast and once again we've had to turn teams away."

Play gets under way Saturday, at 8 a.m., with the championship game scheduled Sunday, at 2 p.m., at J. L. Jackson Secondary School.

March said, "There are some good teams coming in. Teams that have dominated the tournament in the past, like National Hotel and Revelstoke, may be in for a surprise. There will be some excellent soccer."