

Junior clubs on shaky ground

By Don Kendall
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It appears three of the six franchises in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division are on shaky ground.

The future of Revelstoke Rangers, Merritt Centennials and Shuswap Totems is in doubt after a BCJHL governors meeting this week, in Vernon. An emergency meeting has been scheduled Sunday, in Princeton, to discuss the troubled franchises.

Totems owe an estimated \$33,000 to various creditors and another \$1,200 in dues to the BCJHL. Shuswap General Manager Gord McIntosh recently resigned and owner Dave Loudoun is apparently not prepared to invest any more money in the club.

Vernon Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark, who represented his team at the league meeting, said the Shuswap situation must be solved immediately.

"Loudoun is supposed to be at Sunday's meeting to explain his position," Enemark said. "I understand he wants \$20,000 for himself, in addition to \$33,000 to pay off the debts, from

anyone interested in buying the team."

Revelstoke lost a substantial amount of money during the 1983-84 campaign and had applied to move its franchise to Rutland. However, that application was rejected this week by Kelowna City Council.

"Revelstoke had the support of all the other teams in the division in its bid to move to Rutland," Enemark said. "It is unfortunate that it was turned down. I don't know if the owners are prepared to go through another season of losing money in Revelstoke."

Merritt, like Revelstoke and Shuswap, lost thousands of dollars last season. And Centennials did not have a representative at the league meeting. However, Enemark is confident Merritt will remain in the loop.

"I assume they're ready to go for another year," Enemark said. "They haven't indicated any intention of folding to the league."

The Vernon coach said all teams, including Lakers, are concerned about rising expenses.

Kelowna council rejects Rangers



MURRAY LAWRENCE
... first in line

KELOWNA (Special) — Kelowna won't return to the days of having a B.C. Junior Hockey League team ... there isn't enough ice time available.

The Revelstoke Rangers Junior A Hockey Club wanted to relocate its franchise in the Kelowna area and had hoped to operate out of the Rutland Arena.

But, the 91 hours of ice time which would be lost by Minor hockey players as a result of the Rangers' 26 home games is too much, Kelowna City Council decided this week.

In addition to the substantial loss of ice time due to home games, the Rangers would need one to two hours practice at least five days per week, council was told.

This time would come from the Central Okanagan School District scheduled if it occurred prior to 3 p.m., or from minor hockey or figure skaters after that time.

City council accepted a staff recommendation that the Rangers not receive permission to operate in Rutland.

Murray Lawrence, coach and general manager of the Rangers, told council if there ever is sufficient ice time available, the team would like to be the first in line to receive it.

Ald. Jim Stuart said, "All of us would live to give you the ice time, but it isn't possible unless there's a miracle in a new arena."