

VERNON, MAYOR Lyall Hanson climbed on John Hindle's shoulders to uncover a plaque, in the Vance Creek Saloon, commemorating the official opening

of Silver Star ski village last Sunday. Hindle was formerly mayor of Kelowna and president of Silver Star Sports Ltd. Getting a laugh from the offbeat ceremony

is Coldstream Mayor Russ Postill, left. Earlier, civic and mountain officials cut a ribbon in the village square.

(Don Weixl Photo)

Mayor cuts ribbon to open ski village

The dream of North Okanagan skiers of having a destination ski resort in their own backyard became a reality last Sunday when Vernon Mayor Lyall Hanson cut a ribbon to officially open Silver Star Mountain village.

Hanson along with Coldstream Mayor Russ Postill, retiring Kelowna Mayor John Hindle, and Silver Star officials, took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Construction on Silver Star this year included a new day lodge, two hotels, an indoor swimming pool, ski shop, administration building, 200-seat saloon, and ticket centre. The first on-mountain hotel, Putnam Station Inn, was built in 1983.

Hanson was generous in his praise of Silver Star Sports Ltd., operators of the mountain.

"I can't say enough about the development," Hanson said. "They have planned their development and done an excellent job."

Hanson admits he was somewhat skeptical about the size of the development when it was proposed two years ago. "I felt, at that time, the owners were planning to invest a lot of money in the mountain and I wasn't sure if it was realistic," he said. "I'm happy to say now that their faith in the area has been rewarded. The mountain is very busy... and the development is first class."

The mayor is optimistic that the resort will continue to thrive, expand, and bolster the North

Okanagan's economy.

"There is no question that our entire region will benefit because of Silver Star's expansion," Hanson said. "We now have the best ski resort in the Okanagan Valley and it is going to attract tourists to our area."

"I see great potential for not only the winter months, but also the summer. With the facilities Silver Star now has, it is capable of hosting seminars, church camps, conventions, and a variety of other activities."

Silver Star President John Gow said the public's response to the development delights mountain management.

"It is a great feeling to know that all the things we planned have worked so well," Gow said. "We couldn't be happier with the function and charm the expansion has provided. It has created a tremendous enthusiasm among our skiers."

Reservations in the mountain's three hotels are described as 'heavy' and that should ensure future development, according to Gow.

"We are very optimistic that the expansion will continue next year," he said. "It certainly looks positive at this time."

Plans for next summer include construction of a 55-room, full service hotel adjacent to the Vance Creek Saloon; and construction of a Swiss-style hotel.

Knights stretch winning streak

The Canadian Press
The Penticton Knights racked up their 10th consecutive win with a 5-2 victory over the Summerland Buckaroos in British Columbia Junior Hockey league play in Summerland Wednesday night.

In other games, Nanaimo Clippers took an 8-7 win over Richmond in overtime and Abbotsford Flyers beat Langley Eagles 6-4.

Despite the Knights win, assistant coach Nick Iannone said, "I think that's probably the first game we played under conditions where another team is putting on a little pressure on us."

"I'm just a little disappointed with the actions of some of our players. They didn't seem to get into it."

Scoring for Penticton were Tim Comeau, Arron Scott, Joe Murphy,

Murray Winnicki and Shawn Harrison. Shawn Pettyjohn and Brent Mowery replied for Summerland.

Dean Garnett faced 44 shots in goal for Summerland while Derrick Pizzey stopped 19 shots for Penticton.

NANAIMO 8 RICHMOND 7

Dale Brisco scored a 44 of sudden-death overtime to lift Nanaimo to an 8-7 victory over the hometown Richmond Sockeyes.

Mitch Poulin was top scorer for Nanaimo with three goals. Bill Hardy added two and Jamie Cayford and Wade Michalenko had singles.

Mike Scardina, Ben Biagioni, Pat Tomkow, Dave Holmes, Bruce Major, Peter Gill and Don Rintala scored for Richmond, which led 4-1 after the first frame, but fell

behind 5-4 after 40 minutes.

Frank Furlan and Darren Wourms combined to make 29 saves for the Clippers, while Glenn Pencer stopped 33 for the Sockeyes.

FLYERS 6 EAGLES 4

Scoring two goals apiece, Rob Steele and Mike Bulka led the hometown Abbotsford Flyers to a 6-4 win over Langley.

Rob Reid and Eric Furlan added singles for the Flyers, who trailed 2-1 after the first period, but were ahead 4-3 after two.

Mark Recchi, Keith Phair, John Basco and Neil Eisenhut scored for Langley.

Al Loring stopped 42 shots in goal for Abbotsford, while Mike Maisonneuve made 35 saves.

The win gives Abbotsford a 10-15 record. Langley is 16-9.

FLOOR HOCKEY

Lakers salvage draw

Vernon Lakers showed some of their best moves of the season and they weren't even on the ice.

What's more they weren't all necessarily hockey moves.

Lakers showed a lot of heart and helped to encourage a bunch of potentially talented floor hockey players Tuesday night when they took on the Vernon Special Olympics floor hockey team, at West Vernon Elementary School.

The game, end to end and action-packed, ended in a 15-15 draw but only after a late second-half surge by Lakers that saw them score four unanswered goals to earn the tie.

Their opponents, gearing up for a playoff that would see them make a bid for the Special Olympics, showed a lot of finesse and spirit that caught the seven members of the Vernon hockey club off guard.

"These guys are awesome," said Sean Hartnell as he paused to draw a deep breath at halftime with the Special Olympics team ahead 10-7. "We didn't know what to expect but we do now... we're really surprised."

"They'd probably beat Penticton Knights," added Mike Vansickle.

Meanwhile, the game was under the scrutiny of Dan Howe, director of the B.C. Special Olympics Program.

"Floor hockey is probably the biggest program in the province and it's the biggest nationally too," he said. "We have about 25 communities with on-going programs geared toward year-round participation rather than just an event."

The members of the Vernon hockey club who volunteered their time for the exhibition encounter included Sean and Stacey Hartnell, Murray Baron, Wes Gentles, Shawn Lofroth, Mike Van Sickle, Chris Saunders, and Greg Guest.

The Lakers would probably be interested to know that their rubbing elbows with some pretty rugged company when it comes to hockey players



MIKE VAN SICKLE, of Vernon Lakers, accepts a pass during an exhibition floor hockey game, Tuesday, against Vernon's Special Olympics Team.

Lakers battled back in the dying moments to salvage a 15-15 draw with the Special Olympians.

(Daily News Photo)

getting involved with Special Olympics programs.

Tiger Williams is the honorary chairman of the B.C. Special Olympics Floor Hockey program, even though he is conspicuously absent from this province.

"Tiger is in Detroit so we don't hear much from him these days," explained Howe. "But in the off-season he'll be back. It's quite possible that Gary Lupul may get involved too."

Although volunteering their time for a special event such as the game played Tuesday night is

fine, Howe explains that the real need is for volunteers on a more permanent basis.

"There is a real need for volunteers at the organizational level," offered Howe.

Referee Terry White thought the idea was terrific and had high praise for the spirited play of both teams. However, he especially noted the gentlemanly conduct with which the ordinarily rougher Lakers handled the situation.

"That was a real class act by those Lakers," said White. "They're a helluva bunch of kids."

Anyone interested in volunteering their time for any of the many Special Olympics programs in the Vernon area can do so by contacting Anne Blackmore at 545-3688.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1979

Injuries have forced pro racers 'Jungle' Jim Hunter and Alain Cousineau to withdraw from the Labatt Challenge of the Super Skiers, scheduled for Silver Star Mountain Dec. 18.

JUDD'S JOURNAL

Lakers need trigger man



By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports

As a noteworthy Vancouver counterpart recently observed, water tends to seek its own level and in reference to Vernon Lakers, that observation seems applicable.

Lakers have levelled off at second place in the BCJHL Interior Division and it's not such a bad place to be if you consider Penticton Knights is the team above them in the standings.

The trouble here is Knights have yet to lose to an Interior Division team and their domination over Lakers extends as far back as February of last season. The winning spread between the two teams this year has ranged from three to seven goals during four losses the local club has suffered to their South Okanagan rivals.

TOO TOUGH

Given the time to mold his club into the shape he wants, new coach Don Moores will be in a position to give anyone a run for their money, but at this point it looks like defeating Knights is a job too tough for anyone on this side of Hope.

Lakers lack a few big guns to provide some much-needed offence. Derence is something which can be fine-tuned and reworked out of what's on hand, providing of course, that the blue line corps hasn't been gifted with two left feet, or anything more serious.

Where Vernon is concerned, its defensive corps, while leaving much to be desired, is adequate and with the re-insertion of a couple of key players it will be much-improved somewhere down the line. In that regard, getting a bit of backchecking and more intense forechecking from the forward units would do much to help alleviate problems in that area.

Again, something which can be worked out within the club.

But in order for Lakers to rise above their current level, something serious is going to have to transpire on the forward lines and that means the acquisition of a natural goal scorer.

FRUSTRATED

Presently Lakers have few, if any, rifles on the team. Moores, faced with the dilemma of a shootout with Penticton Knights last week was frustrated in his attempt to find anything on his bench that could break the game open for his team.

There are a handful of players who have been carrying the team offensively, but added together they fall well off the pace this club was setting a year ago when it had a five, 40-goal men and another handful of 20-plus scorers.

Nearly everyone on the club had 10, or better, with the exception of a couple defencemen.

Nick Kapicki is the closest thing to a natural goal scorer, but they haven't been coming that easy for him this season. Although he leads the team in scoring, he's probably not going to get many more than 30 goals and that means a lot of games will go by without Kapicki notching as much as a single.

PERSONAL GOAL

Greg Kowal is in the full bloom of his junior career and will no doubt have little difficulty in scoring the 40 goals he set as his personal goal this season.

Shannon Pohl has fashioned himself into something of a trigger-man, but it's doubtful he'll manage more than 30 this season. A few others, including Stacey Hartnell and rookie Greg Guest have shown promise but both are at least a year away from their potential as goal scorers.

There are a handful of decent journeymen-type players who aren't producing enough to justify their appearance on the team.

A few trades would be an ideal move and if I might make a few suggestions there are some clubs who might be willing to deal at present.

Salmon Arm Totems are going nowhere and in their midst is Albert Anthony, a trigger-man if ever there was one. Albert (yes we'd finally have one) just lacks a bit of direction and although he's been accused of not being team-oriented in past, he might be willing to pull up his socks during his last junior campaign.

Merritt Centennials have a number of good goal scorers, but need the journeymen it takes to slug it out during the close games. They might be willing to deal for centre Pat Ryan, who has a scoring touch.

Unfortunately, because of the Chuck Tapp incident a year ago with Lakers' management, dealing with Centennials might require a bit more finesse than usual.

While they're at it, Revelstoke Rangers may be willing to make a deal for defenceman Bryant Perrier, who makes things click on the powerplays.

TWO CARDS

Icing a better team in the near future has also been complicated by the fact that Lakers have just two cards left to be filled... an oversight of former coach Mike Enemark who, in his haste to sign players in the early going, didn't foresee some of them not working out with the team.

Water under the bridge, of course. A trigger man is what this team needs. The shortcomings in most other areas can be overcome with hard work and discipline.

We need a guy like Albert... now!