Wings moving

KELOWNA (Special) — Kelowna Wings, of the Western Hockey League, are moving to Spokane, Wash.

Vic Fitzgerald of Penticton, who is majority owner of the Wings, confirmed today at a press conference in Spokane that the club would be moving to that American city for the 1985-86 season.

Fitzgerald estimates Wings lost $300,000 during the three years the club was located in Kelowna.

The move became feasible when Spokane Chiefs, of the Western International Hockey League, withdrew from that loop after a dispute over gate equalization payments.

Wings will change their name to Chiefs and Al Rollins, who was general manager with the WIHL team, will assume the same post with the relocated WHL franchise.

Fitzgerald said Marc Pezzin, who was general manager of the Wings for the past three seasons, has been offered the head coaching job in Spokane. However, Pezzin is on holidays and is not expected to announce his decision for about two weeks.

Meanwhile, Kelowna is expected to have a franchise in the B.C. Junior Hockey League. Kelowna lost its BCJHL team in 1983 when the Buckaroos moved to Summerland after one season of unsuccessfully competing for fans with the Wings.

At least two groups, including one headed by former Vernon Lakers' Coach Gord MacBeth, are reportedly vying for the franchise.