Vernon Daily News

NINETY-SEVEN YEARS SERVICE TO THE OKANAGAN VALLEY

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AT 'ONE OR TWO LOCALS'...

Teachers' president expects strike

...AS THEY TRY FOR 'FIRST CONTRACTS'

VANCOUVER (CP) — Education legislation introduced last year has created conditions that are bound to lead to strikes during negotiations this summer, the president of the B.C. Teachers' Federation said Wednesday.

"I don't think we're going to get through this without seeing job action in one or two locals," Elsie McMurphy told the annual convention of the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada.

More than pulp and paper workers also enter contract negotiations this spring.

B.C.'s 75 school districts are effectively negotiating 75 "first contracts" and everything from wages to working conditions and benefits must be discussed, McMurphy said.

McMurphy thanked pulp and paper union members from the west coast of Vancouver Island for supporting teachers in their communities, who have been without a contract since last June.

"It's an example of the kind of intransigence we're going to be dealing with with our boards this spring," she said of the deadlock in Zeballos, Gold River, Kyuquot and Tahsis, where teachers there are still trying to negotiate last year's contract.

An arbitration board awarded a two-per-cent wage increase, but teachers and the board are at a stalemate on additional contract provisions for seniority protection, working conditions and housing.

Pulp union president Stan Shewaga said in an interview he is not optimistic about negotiations, due to start in April.

With pulp prices having increased more than $200 per tonne in the past two years, members are looking for improvements in wages and benefits, he said.

Former minister denies Coquihalla coverup

VICTORIA (CP) — Using a voice synthesizer that made him sound like a robot, former highways minister Alex Fraser defended himself Wednesday against charges that he misled the legislature on the cost of the Coquihalla highway.

"I have been an honorable member of this legislature for 18-and-a-half con-

his vocal cords to throat cancer in 1986, told the legislature.

"I would never deliberately, intentionally or in any other way try to deceive or mislead this great institution of democracy. I have the highest respect for this institution and its members."



LAKERS SWEEP INTERIOR FINAL

Vernon Lakers' centre Greg Parnell, right, chases a loose puck while linemate Jamie Steer positions himself behind Penticton Knights' goaltender Jamie Loewen during B.C. Junior Hockey League playoff action, Wednesday, in Penticton. Parnell scored twice to help the Lakers edge the Knights 5-4 and sweep the Interior Division final series in four games. Vernon will host the first two games in the BC-JHL championship series, March 19 and 20, against either the Richmond Sockeyes or Delta Flyers. See story and photo pg. 11. (Daily News Photo)

Contractors scared to speak out, says Lumby logger

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) — Most small logging contractors in British Columbia fear they will lose forest-company business if they speak out about problems in the industry, says Gordon Rowland, a Lumby contractor.

Pete Hornick, chairman of the Interior Logging Association, said contractors who are perceived to be troublemakers have been fired, forced to accept rate reductions, and threatened with loss of contracts.

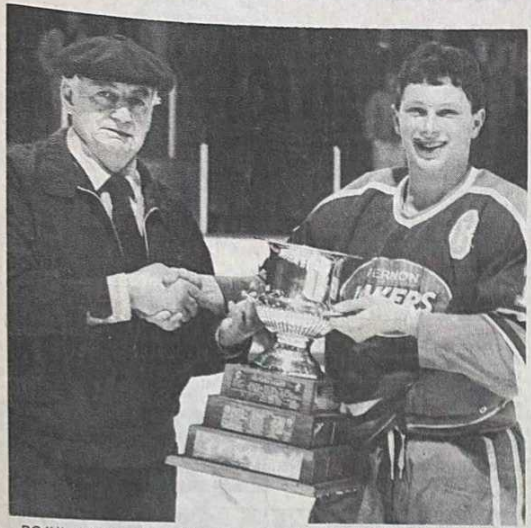
Discussions of fear and intimidation at the hearing of the B.C. legislature's committee on forests and lands prompted committee chairman Graham Bruce to say that closed-session presentations by contractors will be permitted.

"If you had four or five people working for you and one of them spoke up at a hearing like this pointing out your inadequacies who do you think would go?" Rowland asked the seven-member panel.

The committee is investigating ways to establish a standard contract with an arbitration clause to settle differences between contract loggers and major forest licence holders.

VERNON WINS INTERIOR TITLE

Lakers sweep Knights in four games



BCJHL Vice-president Vern Dye presented the Interior Division trophy to Vernon captain Mike Paller after the Lakers edged the Penticton Knights 5-4, Wednesday. The last time Vernon won the Interior Division title was in 1972 and Dye was general manager of that club. (Daily News Photo)

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

The long wait is finally over!

The Vernon Lakers captured the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division championship with a 5-4 win over the Penticton Knights, Wednesday, in Penticton.

The victory gave the Lakers a four-game sweep in the series and the division title for the first time in 16 years.

"This feels great," said Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis. "Now, we need some time off to heal our injuries."

The Lakers will host the first two games in the BCJHL final series, against either the Richmond Sockeyes or Delta Flyers, March 19 and 20.

Richmond blasted Delta 12-4, Wednesday, to take a 2-0 lead in their Coastal Division tilt.

In Penticton, a sparse gathering of 300 fans, including about 50 from Vernon, were on hand for the game. But while the Knights's fans had obviously given up on their hockey team, the players refused to quit.

Vernon led 5-0 at the end of the second period before Penticton got untracked.

Cliff Furnseth spoiled Glen Fry's shutout bid at 6:02 of the third period. Then, a powerplay goal by Lance Momotani, at 15:19, ignited the Knights.

Shane Green scored Penticton's third goal at 17:53 and seconds later Fry robbed Momotani from point blank range.

With netminder Jamie Loewen on the bench in favor of an extra attacker, the Knights narrowed the gap to one goal, at 19:15, when Bob Platzer deflected a shot from the point.

Penticton forced two faceoffs in the Vernon end, during the final 45 seconds, but was unable to get the equalizer.

Lakers' assistant coach Eddie Johnstone said Momotani's goal appeared to wake up the Knights. "It was 5-1, then they got their second goal and it gave them a spark," Johnstone said. "At the same time, we let down a little."

Loewen kept his club in the game, in the first two periods, with several spectacular saves. The veteran netminder thwarted Greg Parnell, Jamie Steer, and Duane Dennis during goal mouth scrambles.

Parnell finally put the Lakers on the scoreboard at 16:11 of the opening period when he picked up a loose puck in the slot area and blasted a high wrist shot over Loewen's glove hand.

Penticton remained within a goal until Lakers' captain Mike Paller scored, on a poweerplay, at 12:01 of the second period. Vernon added three more goals, within six minutes, to seemingly put the game out of reach.

Parnell, with his second goal of the night, Ian Alger, and Dennis were the other marksmen.

Lakers' defenceman Wes Elliott said he wasn't worried about losing after his club blew its huge lead.

"Momotani's goal gave them some life and they started thinking about Kelowna for a minute," Elliott said. "You have to give them credit, they never quit. But, we've got too much talent for them to handle."

The Knights overcame a three-game deficit to defeat Kelowna 4-3 in the division semi-finals. In the other semi-final, the Lakers swept the Merritt Centennials in four games.

Loewen finished the night with 34 saves while Fry kicked out 25 shots, including 12 in the third period.

Unlike the first three games in the series, there was a minimal amount of high sticking and chippy play. Referee Dave McClelland assessed only seven minor penalties, including five to the Lakers.

Vernon went into the game without injured forwards Dallas Drake, Mike Barkley, and Trevor Pohl and defenceman Greg Olson. Paller left the game late in the second period when he was clipped in the mouth by a high stick.

"I think we proved how much depth we have," Lis said. "You take that kind of talent away from any other team and see what they'd do."

All the walking wounded are expected to be ready for the next series.

In Richmond, the teams ran up 450 penalty minutes, including 99 minutes handed out after a second period donnybrook.

Barry Kress and Marty Comeau each scored three times for the Sockeyes, who outshot the visitors 55-24.

The two teams meet again Friday and Saturday night in Delta.

Ryan remains



B.C. Junior

Vernon 5 Penticton 4

(Vernon wins best-of-seven semifinal 4-0)

Canadian University

AUAA

P.E.I. 5 Moncton 2 (OT)

(First game best-of-three