Lakers' schedule increased

Local hockey fans will get to see more of their beloved Vernon Lakers this season.

B.C. Junior Hockey League governors agreed to expand the season from 52 games to 60 this season. The move was made during the annual league meeting, held this weekend in Nanaimo.



BRUCE ALLISON

The league also has a new president. He's Richmond's Bruce Allison, a man who is finishing up a term at the helm of the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association. Allison succeeds John Johnson of Kelowna.

Lakers owner Mel Lis also made it official over the weekend that Vernon intends to bid for the right to play host to the 1990 Centennial Cup, the national Tier 2 hockey championships.

In other news emanating from the league meeting, the Delta Flyers are no more. The club which challenged Richmond Sockeyes for first place in the Coastal Division for most of last season, was given permission to transfer to Powell River. There, the team will be known as the Powell River Paper Kings.

The Summerland Buckaroos were granted a one year leave of absense, a move that will give the Interior Division squad time to sort out financial and other problems.

The Lakers were one of the most successful franchises in the league over the last two seasons. Under head coach Ernie Gare the Lakers won 75 games, lost 27 and tied two during the last two years. Gare's playoff record during that span is 20 wins and nine losses. Under his leadership the Lakers won the BCJHL championship last season as well as the provincial crown.

The Lakers won the right to host the 1988-89 BCJHL all-star game. The date of the game has not been finalized but the game will definitely be played at Vernon's Civic Arena.