

# New building offers fresh start for Penticton Christian School

By Steve Kidd - Penticton Western News - October 24, 2007

The opening of a new school building Saturday signaled the end of a years-long project to provide a new home for the Penticton Christian School and a quest to integrate both elementary and high school classes into a single campus.

There were many young families with their children amongst the crowd of 60 people that braved a chilly fall day to attend the launch of this latest phase of Penticton Christian School's history, which started back in 1988 in the First Baptist Church. The school soon outgrew those facilities, and after several moves, ended up on South Main, in two joined-together portables. Just a few years ago, it was just a couple of old portables," said principal Karl Boehmer. Penticton Christian Secondary, which started in 2002, was of similar construction. It was clear we had to combine the two schools into one."

Now, with a population of 91 students, the school has a permanent home on Edmonton Avenue, on the property of New Beginnings Church. Boehmer thanked the many people that contributed to the effort. Many people have put in a lot of effort, prayer, money and volunteer hours to make this happen," he said.

It's been a 20-year journey to reach this point said Gillian Cramm, acting emcee for the ceremonies, but the real journey probably started even before 1988.

I'm sure there were years before that this was a dream in someone's heart," said Cramm. "Being thankful for what the Lord has done for us, that's what this day is about."

But though this was the end of one project, it's really just the beginning, said Boehmer. This is only phase one. We have two more phases to complete."

Phase two of the project will see the construction of a multipurpose room, a library and more classrooms for the school, as well as space for New Beginnings Church, which will be demolished in the process. By the time all the planned work is complete, the school will have a floor area of 25,000 square feet.



Anyalee Chretien, one of the students at the Penticton Christian School, had the honor of cutting the official ribbon and opening the doors of the school to invite the guests inside.

Photo by Steve Kidd