

## Dream

comes

true with

new library

A dream came true Wednesday evening for members of the Allenford Library Committee. Their new library, adjacent to the Allenford Curling Club, was officially opened by Alex Lamont, chairman of the Bruce County Library Board.

About 40 people were on hand for the opening including Bruce County Warden Ivan Mielheusen and Joyce Johnson, Director of the County of Bruce Public Library.

During the opening ceremonies, Sharon Middleton, Branch Supervisor, said representatives of the Allenford Library Committee met with representatives of the Allenford Curling Club, Amabel and Arran Townships to discuss the possibility of an addition for a library. Grants for \$5,000 were received by both Amabel and Arran Township and more than \$9,000 in private donations enabled construction of the \$28,000 building to begin in November, 1984. Work was completed in February, 1985, by Morrison Contractors and on March 14, the library moved from the trailer on Highway 21 to its new quarters. A deficit of about \$4,000 remains.

Bain Milroy of the Allenford United Church dedicated the new library and Alex Lamont cut the ribbon. Guests and the public were then invited to tour the building followed by coffee and doughnuts.

According to Ms Johnston, director of the Bruce County Library, in 1921, an organizational meeting was held in Allenford and nine library directors were appointed. Donations were received from the community and community groups, and a grant was received from the department of education to help purchase books and pay the librarian. Mrs. W. Newman was appointed librarian and the books were housed in the Newman home. During the first year, 112 members used the library and by 1923, book circulation had reached 3,056.

In 1929, the library was moved to Rowes, and in 1934, the public library inspector visited Allenford Library to give instructions in classifying the book collection.

No records were available for the years 1936 to 1940. However, in 1941, a meeting was held and it was agreed that since the materials were on hand, library service would be maintained. A new library board was formed and in November of that year, the library was moved to Lionel Rathwell's store. Mr. Rathwell was then appointed librarian.

In 1943, the Allenford Library joined the Bruce County Library Co-operative for regular book exchanges.

In 1945, Mac Gregor purchased the store and became librarian. Again in 1948, the store was sold, and the library was relocated and Mr. and Mrs. Best installed shelves at their own expense and agreed to act as librarians.

Over the years, the Allenford library board's philosophy appears to aim "to make satisfied customers and develop good readers and to think of rewards rather than punishments."

It has been this philosophy which has kept the library service growing, Ms Johnston added.

In 1967, the Bruce County Public Library assumed the responsibility of maintaining library service throughout the county of Bruce. Allenford was one of 20 branch libraries.

History appears to repeat itself in Allenford as again in 1973, consideration was given for a new location with discussion as to whether or not to maintain a library service.

However, the Allenford Library now has a new home adjacent to the Curling Club and for members of the Allenford Library Committee it is a dream come true!