

N.K. Mennonite Brethren Church moving into its new building

By **Wanda McConnell**
Herald Editor

Three years after fire destroyed their church, members of North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church are about to move into their new place of worship.

The new \$5.2-million church at the corner of Springfield Road and Gateway Road will have its first worship service June 3.

"It's a wonderful thing to walk into this building and know it's 'home'," says youth pastor Bob Marsch.

Construction on the sprawling, 45,000-square-foot building began about 10 months ago. Marsch says the church sanctuary won't be ready until the fall, so church services will be held in the multipurpose room in the meantime.

The church features a sanctuary that seats 750, a multipurpose room, and wings for both children's and youth ministry. Walls can be opened out so that the sanctuary can seat up to 1,900 people.

The sanctuary, as well as the parking lot paving, will be done as money comes in, says Marsch. Fire insurance provided the church with just over \$2 million to get the new church construction under way, but much of the rest of the money is coming from donations from members, and a small mortgage.

North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church was originally located on Kingsford Avenue just off Henderson Highway. Three years ago at Easter, a devastating fire destroyed it. Since then, the congregation has been meeting at Jubilee Place, a large theatre in Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute.

Marsch says it has been a challenge running the church programs out of various schools and other

churches in the community these past three years. Everyone, he says, is looking forward to settling into the new building.

Eventually, the church will be offering programs to the wider community, not just to its 560 members.

"We're still dreaming and scheming about what we can do but we want to focus on the community, not just our membership," he says.

The church held its last Sunday service at Jubilee Place May 27. Following the service, the congregation went to its new building and had lunch. Then, says Marsch, they did a "prayer walk" around the building, blessing it in anticipation of moving in this week.

The June 3 services will be held at 9:30 a.m. (German service) and 10:30 a.m. (English).

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