

Camano Island Library Grand Opening Remarks

By Helen Price Johnson

Board of Island County Commissioner

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Eight years ago, this community began its love affair with the Terry's Corner library. It was in June 2007, that this space first opened as a pilot project and it was an overwhelming success. Over 2600 people each week visited this modest storefront to attend a children's story time, access the free Wi-Fi, or borrow a book, a cd or a movie.

The Friends of the Camano Island Library dedicated themselves to supporting this community treasure and ultimately gained the support of the voters as well. Now the work is done on renovating that originally temporary space and soon we will enter the doors of this beautiful, permanent library.

Many thanks go to the Friends group for their perseverance and commitment to making this day a reality. I think it's appropriate to remember and honor the significant contributions of the late Carol Wilkerson to this legacy. The Friends of Camano Island Library have given a great gift to future generations of islanders through their efforts! This is a testament to the resilience and capacity of the people of Camano Island and what can be done when you share a vision for the future.

This library is certainly valuable for the many tangible things it provides: books, CDs, movies, computers and internet access. However, its value extends beyond all that. It is a community hub for fellowship and activity...a resource center and gathering space. Its most enduring value is in the human connections which form here. It enriches this community through access to information and culture, and brings the opportunity for friendships and exchange of ideas, the expanding of possibilities, for all who enter its doors. Senior citizens will connect here for book clubs, teens will work together on research projects, toddlers will discover the world through story times...while their frazzled moms and dads share parenting tips with each other...

This is a great day to celebrate and enjoy Camano Island, Island County, Sno-Isle Library system...and to be proud of what this community has accomplished– and what wonderful adventures there are to come!
