book stacks, virtually no storage space, work rooms, conference rooms, offices, outside telephone lines, or adequate study and reading areas.\textsuperscript{11} Such conditions contextualize the reading of prisoner Marcel Lavallé, described by Clarence Karr in chapter 16. A federal survey of Canada’s prison libraries undertaken in 1977 resulted, by 1981, in two types of libraries: those maintained from within the prison system, as in the federal penitentiaries, and those served by deposit collections from outside libraries.\textsuperscript{12} Provincial correctional facilities faced similar challenges in their detention centres, industrial farms, reformatories, clinics, training schools for juvenile offenders, and district jails.

In 1982 the Ontario Public Library Association’s Visiting Library Services Committee summarized the trend toward inclusiveness when it recommended ‘that public libraries intensify their efforts to reassess their community’s need for alternative service delivery systems, re-evaluate their current level of response to those needs and investigate new approaches to serving persons unable to use established traditional library facilities.’\textsuperscript{13} Over the course of the twentieth century, librarians and numerous voluntary organizations did much pioneering in this field, making print materials available to a range of isolated individuals – from lumber workers in the forests to urban shut-ins – in order to overcome their lack of access to conventional library services.

\textbf{CASE STUDY}

\textit{Libraries on the Move}

– Eric Bungay

Bookmobile service came to Canada in 1930 in a summertime venture in the Atlantic region and, on the West Coast, in an experimental ‘book truck’ outfitted to provide library services to the 44,000 people living along an eighty-mile stretch of the Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver. The latter endeavour allowed users to browse several hundred titles from stacks located on both sides of the truck, an enterprise larger in scale than circulating travelling libraries and more mobile than the British ‘perambulating library’ hand-carts of the 1850s or Mary Titcomb’s Maryland-based, horse-drawn ‘book wagon’ of the early 1900s.\textsuperscript{14} The Fraser Valley experiment proved a success, encouraging parallel services in the Okanagan Valley (1935) and Vancouver (1936) and attracting the interest of the National Film Board of Canada, whose film, \textit{Library on Wheels} (1945), inspired the launch of similar vehicles
throughout the Pacific region. Characterizing the bookmobile as a ‘mobilized front line of learning,’ the film concluded, ‘Books are like people: they can become good friends, and you get to know them quicker when they come halfway to meet you” (see illus. 18.3, above).

Between the 1940s and the 1960s, bookmobiles were adopted in every province in Canada, although formal services never reached the Arctic. While initially conceived in order to reach rural residents, the bookmobile was also deployed in urban centres and suburbs to meet the needs of their burgeoning populations. In Ontario, following a ‘book train’ established in 1931 for northern students, Middlesex County organized the province’s first formal, rural bookmobile service in 1940. In the 1950s the county added a public address system to its bookmobiles, an effective attention-getter that on one occasion—much to the hilarity of the librarians present—sparked the interest of a herd of cows. Alberta was the first province to use the
bookmobile model in an urban setting, launching its 'book streetcar' in Edmonton in 1941, an innovation soon copied by Calgary.\textsuperscript{18} Newfoundland's six official regional bookmobile services (est. 1968) were preceded in 1947 by a 'boatmobile' established in St Kyran's Roman Catholic parish, which ministered to several outport communities, an operation overseen throughout the 1950s and 1960s by the supervisor of regional libraries, Jessie Mifflen.\textsuperscript{19} 'Peace River Parnassus', a bookmobile affectionately named after Christopher Morley's novel \textit{Parnassus on Wheels} (1917), began to serve British Columbia's northern communities in 1964;\textsuperscript{20} it represented the province's enduring commitment to this form of library service, unbroken despite a brief curtailment during the 1940s as a result of wartime gas and tire rationing.\textsuperscript{21} In 1965, Montreal initiated its enduring bibliobus service to outlying sectors of the city.\textsuperscript{22}

In the 1970s funding cuts, stabilized populations, the construction of branch libraries, improvements in transportation, and other forms of alternative library service, such as books by mail, brought about the decline of bookmobile service throughout Canada. By 2000 fewer than twenty bookmobiles plied the country's rural roads and urban streets, remnants of a movement whose ingenuity in reaching readers had involved cars, trucks, trains, boats, buses, and streetcars.\textsuperscript{23}

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\textbf{CASE STUDY}
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Women's Institute Libraries

- Jean Cogswell

From their creation of the first anglophone public library in Lachute, Quebec, in the 1930s to their present-day donations of time and money to the rural libraries of Alberta, members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have made a significant contribution to the development of rural library service. This commitment has been a natural outgrowth of an organization which, from the founding of the first Women's Institute in Stoney Creek, Ontario, in 1897, has considered itself, first and foremost, an educational organization for rural women.

Following the educational model of Farmers' Institutes, Women's Institutes provided courses and lectures on domestic economy, health, sanitation, scientific housekeeping, education, Canadian legislation, and inter-