

Cochrane Historical & Archival Preservation Society

History of the Cochrane Library

By: Mark Boothby



Introduction

The mission of CHAPS is to identify, preserve, protect, and educate the public about historically significant properties and buildings in Cochrane, Alberta. The focus of this history is of the founding and early years of the library and is not meant to be a complete history.

Institutions like the Library are particularly valuable since they were founded by volunteers with little support from any level of government. Four women visualized and implemented the first Cochrane Library. Vola McPherson, Nan Boothby, Amy Callaway and Grace Oldfield who saw the need for the hamlet of Cochrane to have a Library and took the steps to obtain books, space and staff to provide that service to residents. Over time many people volunteered and continued to grow the Library supporting the needs of the community.

We should not lose the memory or the spirit of these visionary pioneers.

Background

The Cochrane Home and School Association on October 3rd, 1950 decided to sponsor a library in Cochrane. ⁴ Vola McPherson was the first librarian and retired in 1952. Nan Boothby took over. *"She felt that Cochrane needed a library and she focussed on getting kids involved with books,"* says Brenda Hughes, a librarian in 2000. *"Her thing was to get Kids to become life-long readers."* ¹

The following is a quote from a History of the Library by E. B. Boothby, one of Nan Boothby's sons.

"Education in Cochrane was furnished by the Cochrane school district. Following the depression years and World War 2, cash and collection of taxes was a tough role and books and educational references expensive. The school authority had difficulty in collecting enough money to pay the teachers, janitor and keep the building warm.

A Home and School Association was formed. Mrs. MacPherson served a period as president as did Nan Boothby. There was not a book for reading or reference in the school or a test tube in the science room for use by the students. The association and the student parents decided that something should move forward to improve the situation. For books, a community drive could take place for book donations and shelves to stock a

library in the school. The community drive for book donations began.

At the same period, roads in the area had improved. The adjoining school district wanted to close the Horse Creek, Bearpaw, Glendale schools and build a new school. Discussions took place to merge the Cochrane school district with them and have the new school in the town of Cochrane. Ratepayers of the Cochrane school district approved the merger. On the new school term, there were now bookshelves stocked with books supplied by the school district, leaving no action required by the home and school association.

Many of the student parents, including Nan Boothby and Mrs. MacPherson, decided that a community facility stocked with reading and reference material and located in a public environment would be nice for the student body and a wonderful place for adults to obtain fresh titles to borrow and return.

The town of Cochrane had recently purchased a privately owned recreational building that had been used as a town hall. The upstairs was rented for dances and public events. An unused room existed in the basement. The town authorized the use of this room for a library but advised that not a cent of public funding was available to improve the facility or finance any library function.

*Now funding had to be put in place. Nan Boothby, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Callaway thought that funding could be put in place to modernize the room and build shelving by providing snacks at baseball games and light catering undertakings. The group would be called **w.w.w. in short for willing, working, women**. They would be joined by other volunteers in the community. The room was quickly sanitized, and funding starting to fund modernization of the room. Mrs. Ed Davies would visit Nan Boothby and they would spend hours repairing books donated by the community. These old editions could now be moved to the new location and the doors opened. Discussion took place as to a name, but no decision was made and the doors opened without a sign and was known as the "library". an organization name was structured to enable banking and required usage. "³*

Locations

The library has been in several locations. The first was in a broom closet in the basement of the Community Hall. ¹ The second location, also in the basement of the old Community Hall in a room that formerly was used to store coal. ²



Community Hall The library entrance was on the far side.

In 1975, the third location became the basement of the town hall which was warmer but not much bigger.¹ Then a move to a much larger location in the former St. Mary's Catholic Church. The library was renamed the Nan Boothby Memorial in honour of the women that worked hand in hand to build the library in its first 12 years.¹

Odd things were reported at that location. The site was a former cemetery. Human remains were later found by the University of Calgary and moved to the cemetery.¹



The current location is on Railway Street.

Growth

Again from E.B. Boothby

"Use of the facility gradually grew, and would be influenced by five factors:

First: The government of Alberta introduced a matching grant to libraries which now meant that an increased flow of new reading and reference material could be obtained.

Second: Local service groups began providing cash donations which enabled funding for new editions.

Third: The town would improve the fire equipment and convert the town office to a fire hall. This meant that the nicely furnished library would be needed for the office of the town secretary. The library could move to the empty coal room if desired, but there would be no financial support to renovate the room. The library volunteers and Nan Boothby understood well that the location took a lot of work to renovate but the location had an outside north entrance. With some lights installed and renovation, the balance of the community building could be sealed off, and the doors of the library opened for evening use. Students and youth could now come and research. Adults could now pick up reading material at this alternate time. I was always highly impressed with the spirit of Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Lathwell, Mrs. Callaway and others who joined Nan Boothby in this new location. Only a single teenager would come on many evenings. The ladies knew in their hearts that this person was now occupied in a positive manner and would go forward and take his or her place in society in a positive manner. The time was well spent.

Fourth: An election was called in Canada. At Cochrane, John Boothby, Nan's husband, was called upon to assist [Carl Nickle](#) in his campaign for election to Parliament. Carl was owner and editor of the Nickel Oil bulletin. On the afternoon prior to the public meeting, John would take Mr. Nickle to the library. I long remember the astonishment of Mr. Nickle when he viewed the library and discovered that it was operated by volunteers and without public funding. Mr. Nickle was aware of the Alberta matching grants for libraries. A couple of months later, the library received a letter. The donation allowed the library to go shopping for new editions and apply to the province for the maximum grant.

Fifth: There are those in the community who have much,, many with some and those with little. There are those in their teens who have much energy, many with some and those with interest not held by the majority. There are adults with sound minds, active minds and those who need to keep their mind active with an activity that is of interest and available. None will be drawn to a library because of the name, but will come to a service whatever the name and will tell their friends when the atmosphere at the facility is most positive.

Nan Boothby died in 1962.

The Cochrane Art Club began about the same time as the library. One of their members painted a likeness of Nan Boothby and presented it to the library to honour Nan Boothby. Nan was actually the first librarian.

In due time, the town would construct a new building. This would now contain the library. The library portion was named the Nan Boothby Memorial Library. The name carried forward when the next new building was constructed.”³

[Carl Nickle](#) was a politician from 1951 - 1957

I believe Nan was actually the second Librarian after Vola MacPherson.

In 1980 the library became a municipal library.⁴

Fee's in 1950 were set at \$1.00 per year for adults. Children attending school \$.50 and if not attending school \$1.00.⁹

The newsletter Nan Boothby Memorial Library History and Development (Appendix) contains a listing of the first Library Board and library staff from 1950 through the 35th anniversary in 1985.⁹

Stories from the Early Years

Gordon Davies recalls that his mother and Nan Boothby used to travel to Calgary by bus to obtain books.² Books were often in need of repair so covers were replaced and the books put into circulation.



There have been many long-serving volunteers since the library's inception including Emily Lathwell (33 Years), Margaret Beattie (32 years), Catherine Hansen (25 years) and Dorothy Steves (21 years). Some of their service dates back to the mid-'50s.

The Hansen family moved to Cochrane in the early 1950s. Linda Steeves (Hansen) and Fay Lewis (Hansen) shared their memories of the impact of the Library.

"The Cochrane Library was located in the basement of the Community Hall and became an important part of our first summer in Cochrane. I, (Linda) would go to the Library at 2 pm (opening time) and take the two books I was allowed to borrow home.

I would read the books, have supper and go back to the Library in the evening to get 2 more books. These books had to last until the next opening of the Library!.

The hours of the library at this time were:

Monday 2 PM - 5 PM, 7 PM - 9 PM

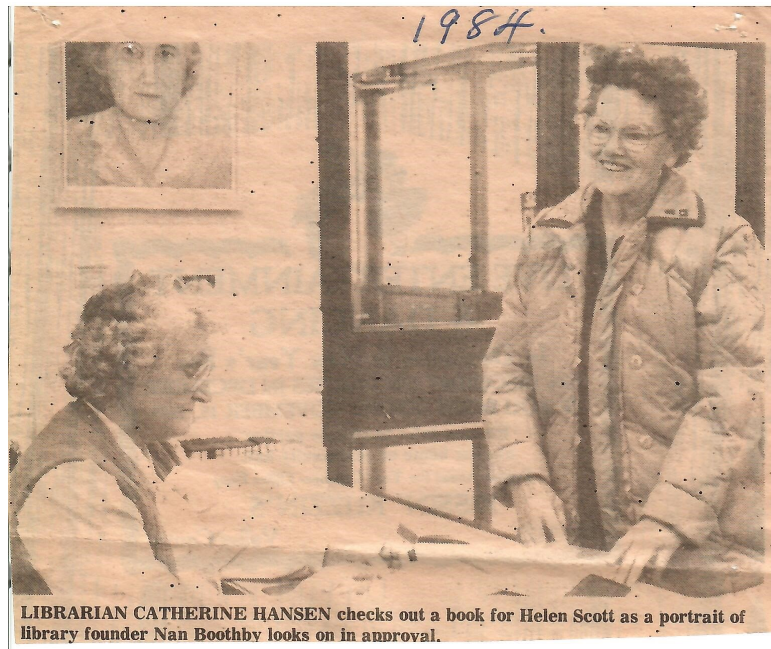
Wednesday 2 PM - 5 PM, 7 PM - 9 PM

Saturday 2 PM - 5 PM, 7 PM - 9 PM

All of us used the Library for recreational reading and research for school projects.

Our mother, Catherine Hansen became an active member of the Library Board.

Catherine's family is proud of their mother's commitment to the library and the commitment to community work she had. "5



Nan and her group grew and sold African Violets door-to-door to raise money for books. This was the start of the Library's fund-raising tradition of the annual flower and book sale. The home-grown African Violets gave way to greenhouse flower baskets; the public donated used books for the sale and the Library collection eventually grew enough to be able to sell-off older, "retired" books in the public, community event.

Nan's Great-Grandson, Craig Hall cut the ribbon at the opening of the current Library on Railway Street.

Nan and her colleagues built the library at the same time as also raising families, making and putting up their own food and preserves, and participating with their family in earning a living. Nan, for example, cooked on a wood-burning stove in a hot summer-kitchen right in the field, meals for an entire, hungry threshing crew who used horses instead of motorized tractors for the field work. ¹²



Staff welcomes you

The Nan Boothby Library staff welcome you to their 35th anniversary celebration Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. Back row: Kathy Paterson (left), Linda Tomlinson. Front row from left: Catherine Hansen, Emily Lathwell, Dorothy Steeves and Margaret Beattie.



Town of Cochrane

Box 10

Cochrane, Alberta T0L 0W0

932-2075

May 30, 1985

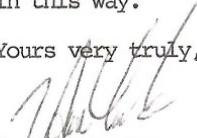
Mrs. Catherine Hansen
P.O. Box 114
Cochrane, Alberta
T0L 0W0

Dear Mrs. Hansen:

On behalf of Town Council and indeed all the citizens of our community, I wish to personally express sincere appreciation to you for your lengthy term of service as a member from the public at large to the Nan Boothby Memorial Library Board. We are very proud of our library and its operation in the past and are convinced that your involvement in the library both as a board member and as a volunteer has impacted the success of its operation. We trust that you will also continue to be actively involved with the library function as you have been in the past.

Again please accept our sincere appreciation for your service to our community in this way.

Yours very truly,


T. Ian Brooker
Mayor

TIB/emh

Final Thoughts

"Gordon Davies, a CHAPS member who remembers visiting Nan and her library in the basement as a kid said volunteers are the cornerstone to many services in town and their efforts shouldn't be forgotten once it's taken over municipally.

*It's a shame that people who are recent residents of Cochrane don't understand (the history). I think that's too bad because I think that part of Cochrane is really important. I think there are other organizations and groups that will face the same thing." Davies said."*⁶

From an article in Cochrane Today by Amy Tucker Jan 10, 2019

"Cochrane now enjoys a Library that was started by the vision and hard work of our community's great-grandmothers in tough times. I hope this history won't be lost."

Susan Hall

Bibliography

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2. **CHAPS Library Research Interview** Gord Davies, Fay Lewis, David Beatty, Mark Boothby, Feb 26th, 2020
3. **A History of the Nan Boothby Memorial Library** by E.B. Boothby Feb 27, 2020. Bruce is one of Nan and John Boothby's sons. He survives brother Bill.
4. **Nan Boothby Memorial Library** More Big Hill Country Cochrane Historical and Archival Preservation Society 1945 - 1980 2009 Page 57-58
5. **Memories of the Cochrane Public Library**, Linda Steeves
6. **How some worry the History of Nan Boothby Library - and a piece of town heritage will be lost.** Cochrane Today powered by Cochrane Eagle by Amy Tucker Jan 10, 2019
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11. **Library Timeline**, Celina Boothby
12. **Library Memories**, Susan Hall

Appendix

14 ▼ COCHRANE TIMES

COMMUNITY

Wednesday, November 22, 2006

Nan Boothby marks 50th with move

RACHELLE NUYTTEN
Cochrane Times

While the Famous Five persevered to give Canadian women the vote, four women who originated in Cochrane gave the town a library.

Nan Boothby, Vola McPherson, Amy Callaway and Grace Oldfield were the library staff of the first Cochrane library. McPherson, the first librarian, has survived many of the books she tended when Cochrane's first library

opened in 1950. And she will be there to help celebrate the anniversary and the grand opening of the new library Nov. 25.

"It was probably meant to be that we would wait this long so we could celebrate it together," Brenda Hughes, librarian of the Nan Boothby Memorial Library, said.

With the grand opening of the new building falling a day after the library's 50th anniversary, the community has a lot to celebrate.

Starting as a broom closet stacked with donated books in the basement of the Community Hall, the library is now celebrating its anniversary in the largest building it has occupied yet. When McPherson retired her position in 1952, the library's namesake, Nan Boothby, took over.

"She felt that Cochrane needed a library and she focused on getting kids involved with books," Hughes said. "Her thing was to get kids to be life-long readers."

Over the next few years the library traveled like a gypsy looking for a suitable space which could hold both books and people. In 1975 the library moved to the basement of town hall which was a little more warm but not much bigger.

As a community library they were dependent on small provincial grant donations. In 1980 their collection of books became a municipal library with added to their funding from the town and the province.

SEE NEXT PAGE



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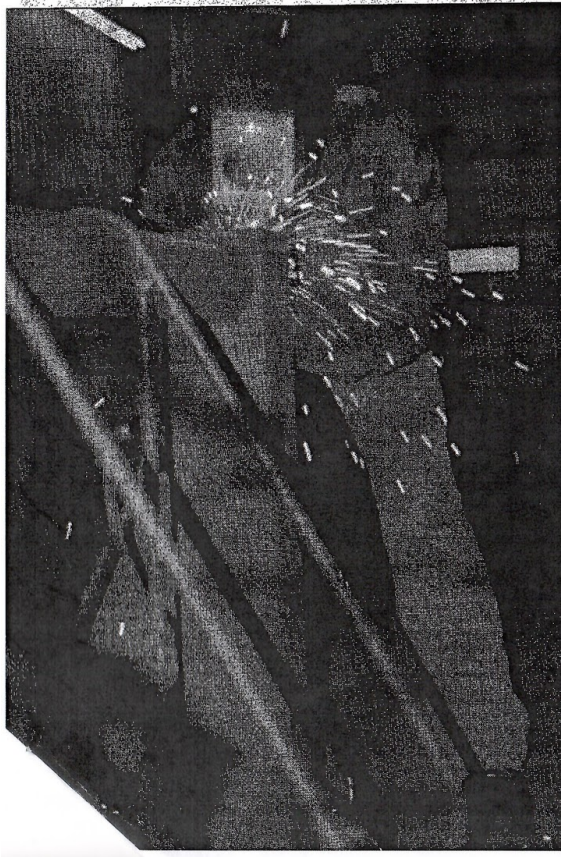
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Boothby on the move

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The extra money allowed the library to expand to a larger area, the recently vacated St. Mary's Catholic Church. The library name was then changed to the Nan Boothby Memorial Library in honour of the woman who had worked hard to develop the library in its first 12 years.

Along with the extra space, the library also inherited what some called a ghost or friendly spirit.

"There, definitely were odd things going on," Hughes said. "The church was set on a cemetery which had been cleared and moved to Cochrane Cemetery at the turn of the century."

Two years ago the University of Calgary came to do some excavating in front of the library and they did find some remains which were later moved to the cemetery.

Now the library has moved to a space three

Jeff McClounie, of EGB Manufacturing, puts the finishing touches on a bike rack which the company donated the time and the material to build for the library.

times as large as the church. To celebrate their new home and their anniversary the library will be providing cake and entertainment. They have also designed anniversary bookmarks to

mark the occasion.

Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate at the library from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will also be door prizes for adults and children.

DTHR
David Thompson Health Region
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The David Thompson Health Region is responsible for delivering healthcare services to over 190,000 residents in Central Alberta, as well as operating 9 acute care, 14 long-term care facilities and 12 community health centres.

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Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Nan Boothby marks 50th with move Cochrane Times Nov 22, 2000



CHAPS Research Interview - CHAPS YouTube Channel [Research Interview](#)

E. B. BOOTHBY, BOX 850, COCHRANE, ALBERTA, T4C 1A9

Thursday, February 27, 2020.

MARK BOOTHBY, mboothby@shaw.ca

NAN BOOTHBY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE ORIGIN OF THE LIBRARY MIGHT BE CONFUSING BUT BEGAN WITH A NEED TO ASSIST STUDENTS AT COCHRANE SCHOOL.

EDUCATION IN COCHRANE WAS FURNISHED BY THE COCHRANE SCHOOL DISTRICT. FOLLOWING THE DEPRESSION YEARS AND WORLD WAR 2, CASH AND COLLECTION OF TAXES WAS A TOUGH ROLE AND BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL REFERENCES EXPENSIVE. THE SCHOOL AUTHORITY HAD DIFFICULTY IN COLLECTING ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE TEACHERS, JANITOR AND KEEP THE BUILDING WARM.

A HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED. MRS. MACPHERSON SERVED A PERIOD AS PRESIDENT AS DID NAN BOOTHBY. THERE WAS NOT A BOOK FOR READING OR REFERENCE IN THE SCHOOL OR A TEST TUBE IN THE SCIENCE ROOM FOR USE BY THE STUDENTS. THE ASSOCIATION AND THE STUDENT PARENTS DECIDED THAT SOMETHING SHOULD MOVE FORWARD TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. FOR BOOKS, A COMMUNITY DRIVE COULD TAKE PLACE FOR BOOK DONATIONS AND SHELVES TO STOCK A LIBRARY IN THE SCHOOL. THE COMMUNITY DRIVE FOR BOOK DONATIONS BEGAN.

AT THE SAME PERIOD, ROADS IN THE AREA HAD IMPROVED. THE ADJOINING SCHOOL DISTRICT WANTED TO CLOSE THE HORSE CREEK, BEARSPAW, GLENDALE SCHOOLS AND BUILD A NEW SCHOOL. DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE TO MERGE THE COCHRANE SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH THEM AND HAVE THE NEW SCHOOL IN THE TOWN OF COCHRANE. RATE PAYERS OF THE COCHRANE SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVED THE MERGER. ON THE NEW SCHOOL TERM, THERE WERE NOW BOOK SHELVES STOCKED WITH BOOKS SUPPLIED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, LEAVING NO ACTION REQUIRED BY THE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

MANY OF THE STUDENT PARENTS, INCLUDING NAN BOOTHBY AND MRS. MACPHERSON, DECIDED THAT A COMMUNITY FACILITY STOCKED WITH READING AND REFERENCE MATERIAL AND LOCATED IN A PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE NICE FOR THE STUDENT BODY AND A WONDERFUL PLACE FOR ADULTS TO OBTAIN FRESH TITLES TO BORROW AND RETURN.

THE TOWN OF COCHRANE HAD RECENTLY PURCHASED A PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATIONAL BUILDING THAT HAD BEEN USED AS A TOWN HALL. THE UPSTAIRS WAS RENTED FOR DANCES AND PUBLIC EVENTS. AN UNUSED ROOM EXISTED IN THE BASEMENT. THE TOWN AUTHORIZED THE USE

OF THIS ROOM FOR A LIBRARY BUT ADVISED THAT NOT A CENT OF PUBLIC FUNDING WAS AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE THE FACILITY OR FINANCE ANY LIBRARY FUNCTION.

NOW FUNDING HAD TO BE PUT IN PLACE. NAN BOOTHBY, MRS. WALLACE, MRS. CALLAWAY THOUGHT THAT FUNDING COULD BE PUT IN PLACE TO MODERNIZE THE ROOM AND BUILD SHELVING BY PROVIDING SNACKS AT BASEBALL GAMES AND LIGHT CATERING UNDERTAKINGS. THE GROUP WOULD BE CALLED W.W.W. IN SHORT FOR WILLING, WORKING, WOMEN. THEY WOULD BE JOINED BY OTHER VOLUNTEERS IN THE COMMUNITY. THE ROOM WAS QUICKLY SANITIZED, AND FUNDING STARTING TO FUND MODERNIZATION OF THE ROOM. MRS. ED DAVIES WOULD VISIT NAN BOOTHBY AND THEY WOULD SPEND HOURS REPAIRING BOOKS DONATED BY THE COMMUNITY. THESE OLD EDITIONS COULD NOW BE MOVED TO THE NEW LOCATION AND THE DOORS OPENED. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AS TO A NAME, BUT NO DECISION WAS MADE AND THE DOORS OPENED WITHOUT A SIGN AND WAS KNOWN AS THE "LIBRARY". AN ORGANIZATION NAME WAS STRUCTURED TO ENABLE BANKING AND REQUIRED USAGE.

USE OF THE FACILITY GRADUALLY GREW, AND WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY FIVE FACTORS:

FIRST: THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA INTRODUCED A MATCHING GRANT TO LIBRARIES WHICH NOW MEANT THAT AN INCREASED FLOW OF NEW READING AND REFERENCE MATERIAL COULD BE OBTAINED.

SECOND: LOCAL SERVICE GROUPS BEGAN PROVIDING CASH DONATIONS WHICH ENABLED FUNDING FOR NEW EDITIONS.

THIRD: THE TOWN WOULD IMPROVE THE FIRE EQUIPMENT AND CONVERT THE TOWN OFFICE TO A FIRE HALL. THIS MEANT THAT THE NICELY FURNISHED LIBRARY WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN SECRETARY. THE LIBRARY COULD MOVE TO THE EMPTY COAL ROOM IF DESIRED, BUT THERE WOULD BE NO FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO RENOVATE THE ROOM. THE LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS AND NAN BOOTHBY UNDERSTOOD WELL THAT THE LOCATION TOOK A LOT OF WORK TO RENOVATE BUT THE LOCATION HAD AN OUTSIDE NORTH ENTRANCE. WITH SOME LIGHTS INSTALLED AND RENOVATION, THE BALANCE OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COULD BE SEALED OFF, AND THE DOORS OF THE LIBRARY OPENED FOR EVENING USE. STUDENTS AND YOUTH COULD NOW COME AND RESEARCH. ADULTS COULD NOW PICK UP READING MATERIAL AT THIS ALTERNATE TIME. I WAS ALWAYS HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH SPIRIT OF MRS. BEATTY, MRS. LATHWELL, MRS. CALLAWAY AND OTHERS WHO JOINED NAN BOOTHBY IN THIS NEW LOCATION. ONLY A SINGLE TEENAGER WOULD COME ON MANY EVENINGS. THE LADIES KNEW IN THEIR HEARTS THAT THIS PERSON WAS NOW OCCUPIED IN A POSITIVE MANNER AND WOULD GO FORWARD AND TAKE HIS OR HER PLACE IN SOCIETY IN A POSITIVE MANNER. THE TIME WAS WELL SPENT.

FOURTH: AN ELECTION WAS CALLED IN CANADA. AT COCHRANE, JOHN BOOTHBY, NAN'S HUSBAND, WAS CALLED UPON TO ASSIST CARL NICKEL IN HIS CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTION TO PARLIAMENT. CARL WAS OWNER AND EDITOR OF THE NICKLE OIL BULLETIN. ON THE AFTERNOON PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC MEETING, JOHN WOULD TAKE MR. NICKLE TO THE LIBRARY. I LONG REMEMBER THE ASTONISHMENT OF MR. NICKLE WHEN HE VIEWED THE LIBRARY AND DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS

OPERATED BY VOLUNTEERS AND WITHOUT PUBLIC FUNDING. MR. NICKLE WAS AWARE OF THE ALBERTA MATCHING GRANTS FOR LIBRARIES. A COUPLE OF MONTHS LATER, THE LIBRARY RECEIVED A LETTER. THE DONATION ALLOWED THE LIBRARY TO GO SHOPPING FOR NEW EDITIONS AND APPLY TO THE PROVINCE FOR THE MAXIMUM GRANT.

FIFTH: THERE ARE THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO HAVE MUCH, MANY WITH SOME AND THOSE WITH LITTLE. THERE ARE THOSE IN THEIR TEENS WHO HAVE MUCH ENERGY, MANY WITH SOME AND THOSE WITH INTEREST NOT HELD BY THE MAJORITY. THERE ARE ADULTS WITH SOUND MINDS, ACTIVE MINDS AND THOSE WHO NEED TO KEEP THEIR MIND ACTIVE WITH AN ACTIVITY THAT IS OF INTEREST AND AVAILABLE. NONE WILL BE DRAWN TO A LIBRARY BECAUSE OF THE NAME, BUT WILL COME TO A SERVICE WHATEVER THE NAME AND WILL TELL THEIR FRIENDS WHEN THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE FACILITY IS MOST POSITIVE.

NAN BOOTHBY DIED IN 1962.

THE COCHRANE ART CLUB BEGAN ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE LIBRARY. ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS PAINTED A LIKENESS OF NAN BOOTHBY AND PRESENTED IT TO THE LIBRARY TO HONOR NAN BOOTHBY. NAN WAS ACTUALLY THE FIRST LIBRARIAN.

IN DUE TIME, THE TOWN WOULD CONSTRUCT A NEW BUILDING. THIS WOULD NOW CONTAIN THE LIBRARY. THE LIBRARY PORTION WAS NAMED THE NAN BOOTHBY MEMORIAL LIBRARY. THE NAME CARRIED FORWARD WHEN THE NEXT NEW BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED.

AN UNUSUAL STORY EVOLVED FROM THE NAN BOOTHBY MEMORIAL LIBRARY AT THE CURRENT LOCATION. I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM EDMONTON. THE LADY INDICATED THAT SHE HAD USED THE NAN BOOTHBY MEMORIAL LIBRARY WHEN AT COCHRANE AND SPOKE VERY HIGHLY OF THE FACILITY. SHE THEN INDICATED THAT SHE HAD PURCHASED A VERY SPECIAL BOOK THAT HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE SHELVES. THE INSIDE COVER WAS STAMPED "NAN BOOTHBY MEMORIAL LIBRARY" AND A HANDWRITTEN NOTATION "DONATED BY SUSAN AND DAVID HALL". SHE THEN INQUIRED WHETHER I HAD ANY RELATIONSHIP TO NAN BOOTHBY. I EXPLAINED THAT THE BOOK SHE ACQUIRED HAD BEEN DONATED TO THE LIBRARY BY A GRAND DAUGHTER OF NAN BOOTHBY.

NAN BOOTHBY AND HER VOLUNTEERS HAD AN AMAZING SPIRIT TO ESTABLISH AND BUILD FROM THE FOUNDATION SOMETHING THAT WOULD ASSIST YOUTH TO OCCUPY THEIR TIME IN A POSITIVE MANNER, IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND ENABLE THEM TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN A WORLD MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE IN WHICH THE VOLUNTEERS WERE RAISED. THE TOOLS OF LEARNING HAVE CHANGED FROM PAPER BOOKS TO ELECTRONICS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT IS NEEDED TODAY TO ASSIST A NEW GROUP OF YOUTH TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD OF CHANGE.

E.B. Boothby History of Library

flavour gets MacKay's business. Through the years, Jimmy has hired several hundred high school students during the summer and many people have come out for MacKay's ice cream as well as all the Bus Companies that stop there.

1983 Jimmy passed away and his two younger daughters took over the business. They had both learned with their father making and selling the ice cream however when he died he took the famous recipe with him.

Donna and Robyn decided they would make a go of the business and began the difficult task of dealing with some stiff opposition. The dairy company that put together the MacKay's ice cream formula together began changing the formula to the extent that it was now the standard set by MacKay's. The girls had to conquer "the old boys club" to get their standards up to scratch and it was a battle. However, they succeeded and today they are successfully carrying on the business they bought from their parents. They continue to produce new flavours but no longer make all the ice cream in the back of the store. They have another building in which the ice cream is made on Railway Street in Cochrane. They have not changed the original recipe very much through the years. It is still a very popular stop in Cochrane for residents and tourists alike.

The Old Timer Newspaper 1960 - 1961

Beatrice Hammer and Maurine Williamson

Well we guess we should first say how the buying of the Old Timer Newspaper came about.

Maurine Reid was trying to sell the paper and I was interested but I had one problem, I couldn't type. So I made friends with Maurine when I moved to Cochrane I took a chance and asked her about the two of us taking the paper over.

I took on the advertising and the news, which consisted of some art work which I enjoyed and Maurine took care of the typing.

Along with the sale we received a very old A.B. Dick typewriter, which had a drum, and boy did it cause a lot of headaches. We moved it to Bea and Johnny's rumpus room and got to work.

The first printing was really something to see! Between the type of paper and the static electricity, as the paper came out of the machine it started flying all over the room. Maurine, myself and my husband helped and our children had a ball catching the paper for us.

We got over the first hurdle of collecting all the pages, and then we ran up and down the table putting them all together. By the time we were finished we began to wonder what we had gotten ourselves in to.

When the time for the next printing came, my husband had managed to stop the static electricity and he also built us a collator. This worked but the paper was poor and the A.B. Dick was worn out so we bought a Gestetner and things started looking up.

I think we can say it was really fun.



*The Old Timer Newspaper
Beatrice Hammer and Maureen Williamson*

Father Lessard started the Old Timer so he could send the news overseas to the service men.

The cost of the yearly subscription was \$1.50 per year. Advertising was as follows: \$3.00 per page; \$1.50 per half page; \$1.00 for third page; 80 cents for quarter page and small ad 35 cents.

This was the town crier of the century and we loved doing it.

Nan Boothby Memorial Library

At a meeting of the Cochrane Home and School Association on October 3, 1950 it was decided to sponsor a library in Cochrane.

Nan Boothby and Vola McPherson were chosen to organize the new library and they chose Amy Callaway and Grace Oldfield as assistants. Vola took a librarian's course and these four women became the staff.

The Town of Cochrane offered them a room, in the basement of the Community Hall and the town supplied the lights and fuel. The Home and School Association and the local town people donated books.

The Cochrane Association Public Library was opened at a Tea on November 24, 1950.

All work then and for many years to come was done on a volunteer basis. It was often very cold in the little basement

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room and it had no windows. The Official Library Board was formed in January 1951 and consisted of the following members; Mr. A.J. Allen, Chairman, Mrs. G. Oldfield, Secretary, Mrs. A.J. Allen, Treasurer, Mrs. V. McPherson, Librarian, Mrs. A. Callaway, Miss Jean Callaway, Mrs. Nan Boothby, Mr. E.S. Tatro, Mr. Gish, Mr. Fleenor, Mrs. Austin, Mr. G. Broatch.

Fees were set at one dollar per year for adults, children attending school paid fifty cents per year and those not attending school paid one dollar per year. By the end of 1951 there were fifty-five adult members and seventy-four children.

In January 1952, Vola McPherson resigned and Nan Boothby became the Librarian. In June 1959, the Home and School Association relinquished sponsorship of the library.

As a community library, it was now dependent on donations and a very small provincial grant and in 1975 the library moved into another room in the basement of the Town Hall. It was a lot warmer in this room but still the room was too small for very many books or people.

In 1980, the library took a great step forward. It became a municipal library, thus receiving funding from the town as well as a larger provincial grant. It also acquired a new home. The Town and the Province gave the library funds to purchase the recently vacated St. Mary's Catholic Church. Major renovations were done and the result was a beautiful new library. The name was also changed to Nan Boothby Memorial Library in honour of the woman who did so much to nurse the library through its first twelve years. She served as a Board Member, Assistant Librarian and from 1952 until her death in 1962 as Head Librarian. Nan was a self-educated person and a hard worker in the Community. She was married to John Boothby and they had two sons, Bill and Bruce.

Over the years there have been many people who have given much time and energy as board members and library workers. Through the years the Library Board and Friends of the Library have held many different fund raising events to help. Support was supplied by the Cochrane Legion, St. Andrew's Church, Ladies Group and Sunday School, Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star, Catholic Women's League, Light Horse Association, Home and School Association to mention a few. Various groups in Cochrane held many fundraisers and donations were received by many interested individuals. Shell Oil, Jumping Pound presented the Encyclopedia Britannica and the yearbook every year to the library.

After a number of years a brand new larger building was built on Railway Street and slowly has expanded

it's collection. The library offers many programs as well as book launches, storytelling, programs for small children and even computers.

From a small little cold room in the Community Hall in Cochrane the Town now has a beautiful building offering many library services for the citizens of Cochrane and the surrounding area.

In 2007, the Nan Boothby Library has expanded again by joining the Marigold Library System which now allows its users to access any book or information that they may need.



*Library Ladies
Dorothy Steeves, Emily Lathwell, Catherine Hansen*

Rona B Shot Tower

One of the most recognizable landmarks in the Town of Cochrane and surrounding area since the 1960's was the Rona B Shot Tower, visible from most parts of town. Towering 50 metres (165 feet, 6 inches) in height it was by far the tallest structure in Town.

Ron A. Baker, owner and builder, spent his boyhood living on the family farm in the Mossleigh, Alberta area during the depression of the 1930s which forged his entrepreneurial spirit and taught him to "always have more than one iron in the fire".

Ron, who coached two of Canada's Olympic Trap and Skeet Shooting Teams, perceived a need for top quality lead shot. With this in mind he proceeded to purchase land in Cochrane, south of the railroad tracks in an open field, and build a shot tower. He purchased an old oilrig in Edmonton and had it hauled down to Cochrane. He was fortunate to be able to find someone who still knew how to erect these old rigs and in 1960 the Rona B Shot Tower graced the skyline of the little town of Cochrane.

A small elevator in the middle of the tower was installed to get the men and the lead up to the top of the tower. There the lead was melted in large kettles and dropped down a large screened pipe to the bottom of the tower. With this method perfected, Rona B was

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Nan Boothby Memorial Library History and Development

At the meeting on October 3, 1950 the Cochrane Home and School Association decided to sponsor a library in Cochrane.

Nan Boothby and Vola McPherson were chosen to organize the new library. They, in turn, chose Amy Callaway and Grace Oldfield as assistants. These four women became the first library staff, with Vola McPherson serving as Librarian.

A room in the basement of the Community Hall was offered by the Town Council. Lights and fuel were supplied by the town, and books were donated by townspeople.

At a tea on November 24, 1950, the Cochrane Association Public Library was opened. All work then, and for many years to come, was done on a volunteer basis. It was often very cold in the little basement room, and it had no windows.

The first Official Library Board was formed in January, 1951, and consisted of the following members:

Mr. A.J. Allen	-	Chairman
Mrs. G. Oldfield	-	Secretary
Mrs. A.J. Allen	-	Treasurer
Mrs. V. McPherson	-	Librarian
Mrs. A. Callaway		
Miss Jean Callaway		
Mrs. N. Boothby		
Mr. E.S. Tatso		
Mr. Gish		
Mr. Fleenor		
Mrs. Austin		
Mr. G. Broatch		

Fees were set at \$1.00 per year for adults. Children attending school paid 50¢ per year, and those not attending school paid \$1.00 per year. By the end of 1951 there were 55 adult members and 74 children.

In January, 1952, Vola McPherson resigned and Nan Boothby became librarian. In June, 1959, the Home and School Association relinquished sponsor-



ship of the library. As a community library, it was now dependent on donations and a very small provincial grant.

In 1975, the library moved into another room in the basement of the town hall. It was warmer but still too small for very many books or people.

In 1980, the library took a great step forward. It became a municipal library, thus receiving funding from the town, as well as a much larger provincial grant. It also acquired a new home. The Town and Province put up the money to buy the recently vacated St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Major renovations were done, the result being a beautiful new library building. The name was changed to Nan Boothby Memorial in honor of the woman who did so much to nurse the library through its first 12 years.

Over the years, there have been many people who have devoted much time and energy as board members and library workers. There are far too many to list them all. On the occasion of the 35th Anniversary, tribute was paid to the people who have done most of the work in the library. A plaque was dedicated with the following names:

* Vola McPherson	1950 - 1952	Founding Member
* Nan Boothby	1950 - 1962	Founding Member
Amy Callaway	1950 - 1957	Founding Member
Grace Oldfield	1950 - 1957	Founding Member
Flora Hogarth	1952 - 1954	
* Margaret Beattie	1954 - present	
Emily Lathwell	1954 - present	
Dorothy Steeves	1954 - 1968	1980 - present
Betty Barrows	1954 - 1964	
* Dorothy Brickett	1958 - 1964	
Ruth Davies	1958 - 1965	
Catherine Hansen	1962 - present	
Vi Desjardine	1963 - 1964	
* Anne Bryant	1980 - 1985	

* Served as Head Librarians

Nan Boothby



Nan Boothby was one of the founders of the Cochrane Association Public Library in 1950. For the next 12 years she served as Board Member, Assistant Librarian, and, from 1952 until her death in 1962, as head librarian.

A self-educated person, Nan was a hard worker in the community. For many years she taught Sunday School at St. Andrew's United Church. She was married to John Boothby and the mother of two sons, Bill and Bruce.

In 1980, when the library was relocated to the Old Catholic Church, the name was changed to Nan Boothby Memorial in honor of her devotion and dedication.

Nan's memory will always live on in her good works for the community.

This has been compiled as a project to commemorate the
35th Anniversary of the Nan Boothby Memorial Library,
November, 1985

Board of Trustees

Louise Millie - Chairperson
Lydia Graham
Wally Lepp
Kent Liang
Ken Parker
Jane Sarsfield
Ian Watt

Staff

Linda Tomlinson - Librarian

Margaret Beattie
Catherine Hansen
Emily Lathwell
Kathy Paterson
Dorothy Steeves

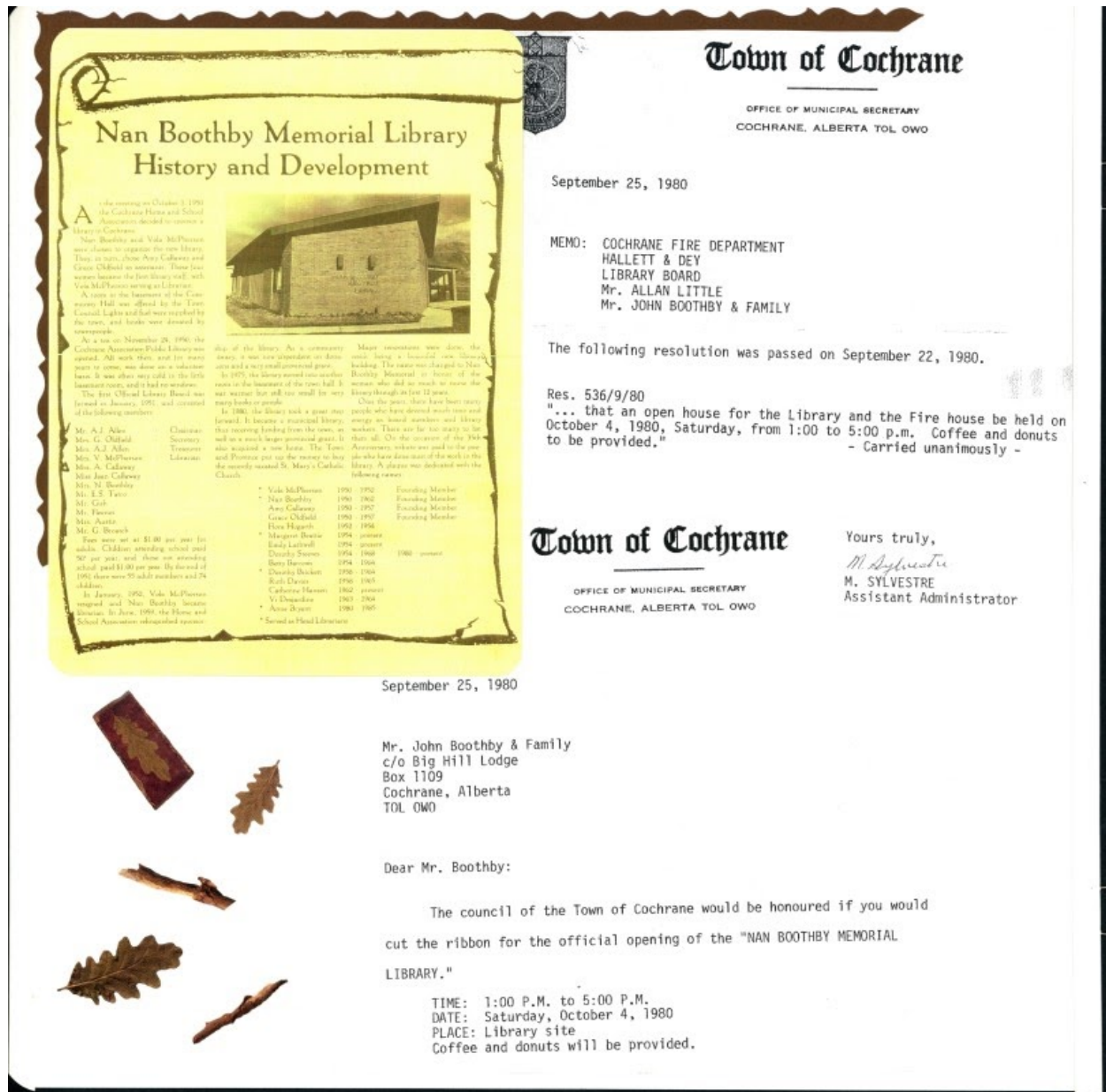


Photo Project by Dorothy Boothby Submitted by Joan Owen

1950

Nan Boothby

Nan Boothby was one of the founders of the Cochrane Association Public Library in 1950. For the next 12 years she served as Board Member, Assistant Librarian, and, from 1962 until her death in 1982, as head librarian.

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This has been compiled as a project to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Nan Boothby Memorial Library, November, 1985

Board of Trustees

Louise Miller - Chairperson
Lydia Graham
Wally Lepp
Kent Luong
Ken Parker
Jane Sarsfield
Ian Watt

Staff

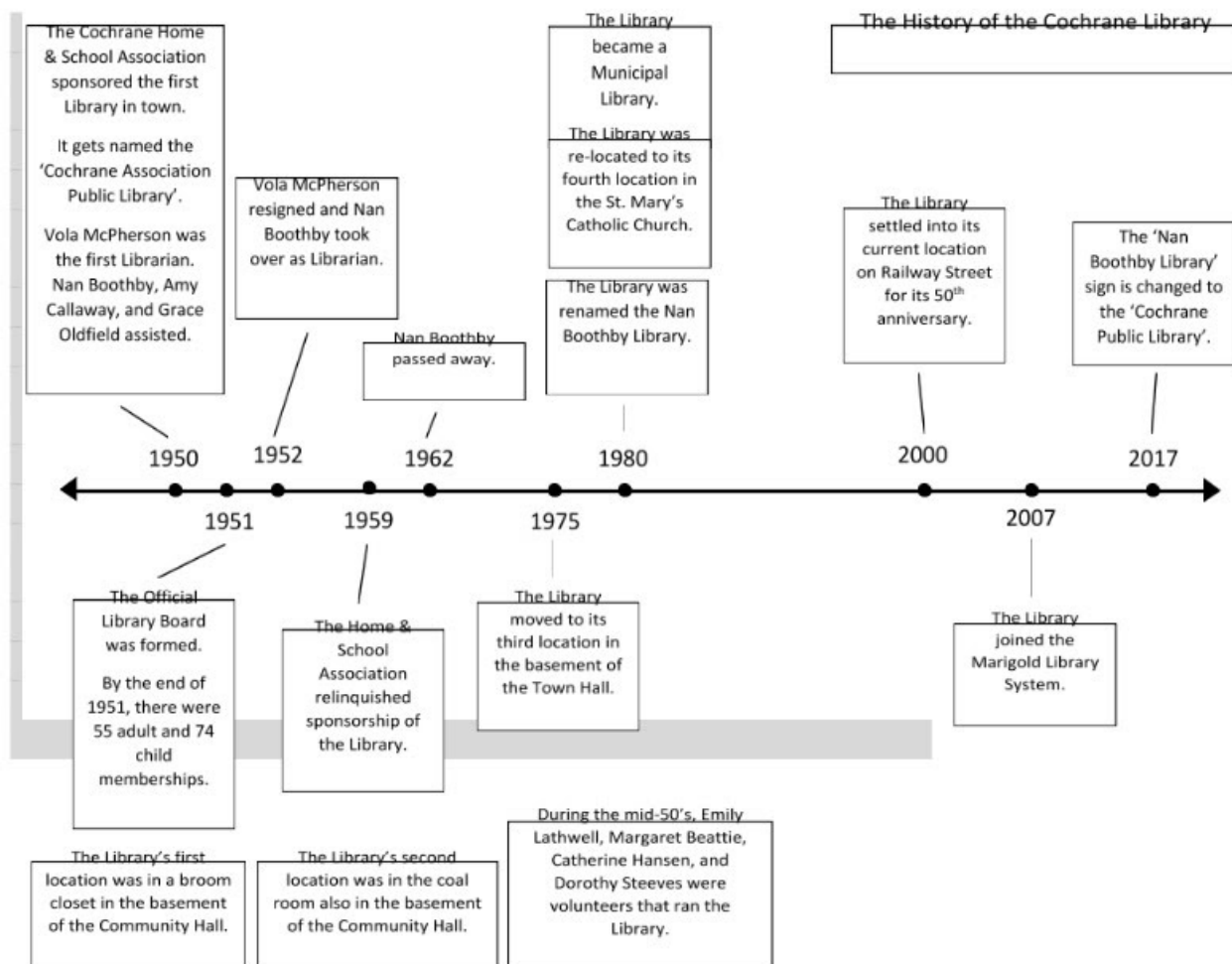
Linda Tomlinson - Librarian
Margaret Beattie
Catherine Hansen
Emily Lathwell
Kathy Patterson
Dorothy Steeves

"AT A TEA ON NOVEMBER 24, 1950
THE COCHRANE ASSOCIATION PUBLIC
LIBRARY WAS OPENED."

"A ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF
THE COMMUNITY HALL WAS
OFFERED BY TOWN COUNCIL.
IT WAS OFTEN VERY COLD IN
THE LITTLE BASEMENT ROOM,
AND IT HAD NO WINDOWS."

NAN BOOTHBY ACCEPTING
A DONATION OF BOOKS
FROM SHELL OIL COMPANY

Photo Project by Dorothy Boothby Page 2



Library Timeline