



**PETROLEUM  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**ARCHIVES**

*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*May 2010; Volume XXI, Number 4*

**P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, May 5, 2010**

**Schlumberger in Canada:  
A Tale of Unique Challenges and Opportunities**

by David Finch, Petroleum Historian and Author

Long ago and far away from Alberta, the Schlumberger brothers formed Société de Prospection Electrique in 1926. Until recently the Canadian branch of this company dated its activities in Canada from the heady days after the discovery of oil at Leduc in 1947. In anticipation of celebrating its 60th anniversary of operations in Canada, Schlumberger Canada Limited commissioned a member of the Petroleum History Society to dig into its history. This presentation reviews the story of SLB in Canada and reveals how the company negotiated its first contract to perform a long-forgotten survey of part of western Canada's first commercial oilfield in the late 1920s. As a result, the company now boasts an 82-year history in Canada and is looking forward to its centennial in Canada in 2028.

*Calgary historian David Finch holds the M.A. in Post-Confederation History from the University of Calgary. His abiding interests in Turner Valley and in the social, political, economic and environmental history of the oil industry continue to challenge and engage him. He is the author of more than 20 books about various aspects of the history of the Canadian West. And he once fell out of a tree while canoeing. **Schlumberger Canada Limited has graciously donated a case of 50 copies of "From the Beginning: Schlumberger's History in the Canadian Oil and Gas Industry" to the Petroleum History Society. Anyone attending this meeting of the P.H.S. will be able to purchase a copy of this book for \$10. All proceeds will remain with the P.H.S. and will assist with its ongoing programming. Our thanks to Schlumberger and David for this support.***

TIME: 12 noon, Wednesday, May 5, 2010.  
PLACE: Calgary Petroleum Club, 319 – 5th Avenue S.W. – Cardium Room  
COST: Members \$30.00 and Guests \$35.00 (most welcome) (cash or cheque only)

**R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend to: Clint Tippett, 403-691-4274 or [clinton.tippett@shell.com](mailto:clinton.tippett@shell.com) by noon, Monday, May 3, if not sooner.**

**Individuals who indicate that they will be attending but do not materialize will be considered "no shows" and **will be invoiced for the cost of the luncheon.** Individuals who do not R.S.V.P. cannot be assured of seating.**

## **P.H.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – March 31, 2010**

### **Viking Room, Calgary Petroleum Club**

*(This record of the meeting from the President's speaking notes)*

1. Welcome to 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Petroleum History Society.
2. Agenda was distributed together with the ballot, a summary of our five 2009 Award winners and the biography of our keynote speaker, Dick Haskayne (see March Archives for the latter).
3. Year in Review – a very good slate of luncheon talks:
  1. Last AGM March 25, 2009 – Sydney Sharpe on “Staying in the Game – The Remarkable Story of Doc Seaman”.
  2. May 6, 2009 – J. C. H. Emery and Jennifer L. Winter on “Estimating the Credibility of the C.C.F.'s Threat to Nationalize Oil Resources in Saskatchewan (1944-1964)”.
  3. June 10, 2009 – Gordon Kelly on “The Oil Sands – Canada's Path to Clean Energy?”
  4. September 23, 2009 – Mini-Film Festival – three short films - “Courtesy Matters”, produced by Murray Dale for Encana; “Living in Little Chicago” by the Museum of the Highwood (2008); “Offshore” by the National Film Board (1973).
  5. October 21, 2009 – Derry Macfarlane on “The Oil Scouting Fraternity: Don't tell me how – just get the information”.
  6. November 25, 2009 – Kary Cuthill on “Bringing to Rest an Industry Icon: The Dingman #2 well, Turner Valley”.
  7. January 27, 2010 – Gordon S. Clarke and Sharon A. McLeay “Full Steam Ahead: H.F. Clarke Industrial Inc. – Since 1907”.
  8. February 24, 2010 – David Russum on “Unconventional Gas in North America: A Massive Paradigm Shift”.

As you can see we covered the gamut of Canadian oil topics – from the old to the reasonably recent, from east to west, from gas to oil, from people to technology, and from the Frontiers to our own back yard.

Would like to thank all of our Board members who took the initiative and contacted people who they thought had interesting stories to tell for the purpose of these luncheons.

This has been another successful year of publishing Archives.

We have tried to provide a stream of news and items of interest to our members.

Talk summaries from Sydney Sharpe, Jennifer Winter and Kary Cuthill have complemented their oral presentations and are this preserved on the P.H.S. website.

The Society tries to spread the word about petroleum history by publishing announcements for meetings and activities by other groups such as the Petroleum History Institute in the United States and the International History of Geology group.

We have highlighted a number of visual items including the 2010 Petroleum History Calendar by Randal Kabatoff and the sales brochure for the series "The Rig".

From time to time we've tried to spice the newsletter up by including some interesting photographs. We hope to carry that further by utilizing some of the excellent people pictures that Penny Colton has taken.

2009 was a strong year in terms of the utilization of our website under the guidance of Past-President Micky Gulless. Micky continues to update and broaden the information that is contained on the website and I would encourage any of you who hasn't had a tour through it to take the time to do so. You will be well rewarded.

We should note that the PHS has recently purchased a Powerpoint projector and, as such, is moving into the modern age for presentations that can be enjoyed, saved and shared. This purchase was facilitated by a generous grant from Shell Canada. We may have enough left over to buy a small video camera.

We are well settled into our new Luncheon home here at the Petroleum Club through the coordination of Helen Turgeon and the sponsorship of Hugh Leiper.

4. I wish to thank all the members of the Executive and Board for their contributions over the year. These include the PHS coordination in my absence and liaison with the University of Calgary by Vice President Bob Rintoul, combination of hard work on the website and membership records by Past President Micky Gulless, financial oversight by Treasurer Doug Cass, the recording of our discussions and ensuring the ongoing viability of the Society by Secretaries Peter Savage and Peter McKenzie-Brown, external liaison and speaker identification by Bob Bott, excellent input from Hugh Leiper on our Awards program, scoping out new initiatives for the Society by Neil Leeson and photographic contributions combined with inter-association coordination from Penny Colton. Helen Turgeon has taken the liaison with the Petroleum Club under her wing. Helen and Bill McLellan have also agreed to work on possible nominations to the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame. Neil and Helen are cooperating on a membership promotion. Thanks to everyone.

Finally, I'd also like to add that I recently made a presentation to the Desk and Derrick Association and have brought along a hard copy of the slides that I used. It's called "Petroleum History – Why - and How".

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

With that I would like to call upon Treasurer Doug Cass to review the financial results of the past year (see the website).

We will now hold the election of next year's Executive and Board of Directors.

Before we hold the election, I would like to thank Peter Savage, our outgoing Secretary, for his many years of service to the P.H.S. Peter was making oilpatch history before I was born and he has reminded me several times of the geophysical work he did for Shell in New Brunswick in the late 1940's. His full time retirement is well deserved.

I would also like to thank David Stauff, our outgoing Director, for his service and in particular the role that he played in the liaison with the oil history players in Ontario.

We note with sadness the passing of former P.H.S. Director John Frey.

I would now like to ask that the election of the 2010-2011 Executive and Board be carried out. Micky has agreed to do so. Our ballots are in the handout package.

Election of the new Executive and Board of Directors:

Ballot for 2010-2011 Executive and Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
Clint Tippett	Bob Rintoul
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Doug Cass	Peter McKenzie-Brown
<b>Directors</b> Bill McLellan Hugh Leiper Robert Bott Penny Colton Ryan Kalt Helen Turgeon Neil Leeson Nathan Hawryluk	<b>Past President</b> If Clint Tippett is re-elected President, <b>Micky Gulless</b> remains Past President.  Otherwise, <b>Clint Tippett</b> becomes Past President.

No nominations were received from the floor. The slate of candidates was acclaimed.

Welcome new Board members Ryan Kalt and Nathan Hawryluk.

Questions from the floor were entertained.

**Presentation of the Petroleum History Society Awards for 2009:**

**BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2009 TO:**

**HARLEY HOTCHKISS**

**FOR:**

*" HAT TRICK – A LIFE IN THE HOCKEY RINK,  
OIL PATCH AND COMMUNITY*

WITH PAUL GRESCOE, PUBLISHED BY DUNDURN PRESS

Harley was in attendance and accepted his award.

**ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2009 TO:**

**MARCELO BUCHELI**

**FOR**

**"CANADIAN MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND ECONOMIC NATIONALISM: THE CASE  
OF IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED  
IN ALBERTA (CANADA) AND COLOMBIA, 1899-1938"**

**PUBLISHED IN ENTREPRISES ET HISTOIRE,  
2009, NO. 54, PP. 67-85**

The award was accepted by Treasurer Doug Cass on behalf of Marcelo.

**MULTIMEDIA AWARD FOR 2009 TO:**

**SOUL OF ALBERTA AND RANDAL KABATOFF**

**FOR**

**THE CREATION AND MARKETING OF A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS RELATED TO THE  
HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY**

Randal was in attendance and accepted his award. A selection of his historical products had been brought along for the audience to examine.

**PRESERVATION AWARD FOR 2009 TO:**

**JAMES KINNEAR**

**FOR**

HIS SUPPORT FOR THE RECORDING AND PUBLICATION OF CANADIAN  
PETROLEUM HISTORY THROUGH SPONSORSHIP OF THE PUBLICATIONS  
OF AUBREY KERR

Bob Nicolay, President of the Board of Governors of the Calgary Petroleum Club, accepted the award on Jim's behalf.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2009 TO:**

**TAMMY NEMETH**

**FOR**

EXCELLENCE IN THE DOCUMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF  
CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL ENERGY HISTORY

Doug Cass accepted the Award on behalf of Tammy and read Tammy's acceptance note that she'd sent:

**ACCEPTANCE REMARKS FROM TAMMY NEMETH**

*"It is with great honour and humility, yet with some reluctance, that I accept this "Lifetime Achievement" award. With the deepest respect, and I hope that I am not being impertinent, I would prefer to consider this honour to be an "Early Career Achievement" award. Since I am at the beginning of my academic career rather than nearing its end, I feel that I have not yet accomplished enough to warrant recognition of "Lifetime Achievement" to petroleum history, particularly given some of the other people you have honoured with this award. That being said, let me assure the members of the Petroleum History Society that my intent is to continue in the research, documentation, and writing of Canada's petroleum history within its national and international contexts. Indeed, I have two articles dealing with Canadian-American petroleum issues of the 1970s and 1980s being published this year in two separate collections. Although I am currently living in France and taking time away from full time academic pursuits to raise two small children, in what spare time I have and drawing upon my own meagre personal finances, I am working on two books and an article that I hope to have published in the next year or two. One book is a revised version of my PhD dissertation, "Continental Drift: Canada-U.S. Oil and Gas Relations, 1958-1988"; the second book is on the dismantling of the National Energy Program; and the article is on the energy policy making structures of the Nixon and Ford administrations. I am also planning a third book on the petroleum policies of the Trudeau years, though this is some time away from publication. I would also like to take this opportunity to praise the Petroleum History Society for providing a scholarship for graduate students pursuing studies related to petroleum history. It is extremely difficult for students and scholars to obtain scholarships and funding to examine and pursue basic historical questions surrounding petroleum*

*history. The granting process favours politicized topics and approaches. Thus, unless one is exploring environmental abuses of petroleum corporations, the evils of free trade in petroleum, the benefits of government intervention and state oil companies, or applying a trendy new theoretical approach it is unlikely that research will be supported by the typical Canadian university granting agencies like SSHRC. This is why the scholarship you offer is so important. Trying to understand how Canada's petroleum industry developed, how provincial and federal governments interacted with companies and each other, how petroleum companies and industry associations have evolved over time, or just telling a good story about the personalities and individuals involved in Canada's petroleum history is a neglected pursuit in Canadian academia (largely because it is unlikely to be funded), but, nevertheless, one which I hope to continue.*

*I thank you very much for this honour and recognition of the work I have done, and hopefully will do in the future, in the field of Canadian petroleum history.”*

Introduction of the speaker by Director Hugh Leiper. Hugh is thanked for arranging for Dick to address the AGM.

Keynote address by **Dick Haskayne** (a summary will be available in a subsequent issue of Archives).

Questions, answers and discussion.

Book presentation to Dick Haskayne by Bob Rintoul.

Thanks to the Speaker by Clint Tippett (P.H.S. pin set).

Thanks to everyone for coming out – enjoy yourself over a few drinks and snacks.

Have a safe trip home.



Opening ceremony at the Shell Jumping Pound Gas Plant in 1951 in the Foothills just west of Calgary. On the left are three members of the local Copithorne family who were and are important surface and subsurface landowners. In the centre is Nathan Tanner, Provincial Minister of Mines, and to the right beside him is Vacey Ash, President of Shell Canada.



Well “logging” at Shell Klua Creek #1 in the 1950's. In these early days of drilling in northern Canada, the boilers on the rigs were commonly wood-fired and it was necessary to harvest the timber from a large area around the actual wellsite lease to provide enough firewood for the duration of the drilling program. Illustration courtesy of Shell Canada Photo Archives.



*A natural gas seepage a few yards from the site of Calgary Petroleum Products Dingman No. 1 well Turner Valley, 1915.*

Imperial Oil Ltd.