



**PETROLEUM  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**ARCHIVES**

*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*January 2014; Volume XXV, Number 1*

**P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, January 29, 2014**

**Celebrating Turner Valley's Centennial**

*by David Finch - Historian and Author*

May 14, 2014 promises to be a big party day as the people of Alberta and Canada help celebrate the discovery of Western Canada's First Commercial Oilfield. Luck, careful investment, critical infrastructure, a strong regional demand for petroleum products, and an eye to the development of the Canadian West were all instrumental forces in the development of the industry that underpins the Alberta economy today. Finding oil, producing it, preparing it for market and delivering it to consumers is the challenge today's petroleum industry faces every day - and the same challenges that the pioneers in Turner Valley set out to tackle 100 years ago in southern Alberta. Historian and author David Finch will update the Petroleum History Society on the plans for the celebration of 100 years of petroleum production in Turner Valley. Come prepared with your questions for David Finch and others at this special luncheon. Or bring a Turner Valley story to share at your table or with the crowd. There will be a surprise or two unveiled at this P.H.S. event too.

*David Finch is a researcher, writer, contributor to the Turner Valley Gas Plant Historic Site development process and is the author of several books and articles on this story of oil in the Canadian West.*

TIME: 12 noon, Wednesday, January 29, 2014.  
PLACE: Calgary Petroleum Club, 319 – 5th Avenue S.W. – Viking 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: Micky Gulless, 403-283-9268 or  
[micky@fuzzylogic.ca](mailto:micky@fuzzylogic.ca) by noon, Monday, January 27, 2014, 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. by the deadline cannot be assured of seating.**

*THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY*  
**THE BULL WHEEL**



**Next Luncheons:** Our luncheon slate is shaping up for remainder of February to June 2014. We are seeking speakers and interesting subjects and, at this point, a speaker for our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 26. If you are considering making a presentation, please contact Clint Tippett, President P.H.S., at 403-691-4274.

**P.H.S. Elections:** These elections for Executive and Board will be held at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in running for any of the positions or in becoming a Director, please let Clint know in the near future.

**P.H.S. Annual Awards Program:** The awards for 2013 will also be made at the Annual Meeting at the end of March. The categories are Book of the Year, Article of the Year, Multimedia, Preservation and Lifetime Achievement. Please send your nominations with supporting rationale to the P.H.S. by the end of February. Some nominations are in hand.

**P.H.S. Field Trip to Turner Valley:** Preliminary plans are being developed for a full day Society trip to Turner Valley on Saturday, May 10 in connection with the anniversary of the 1914 discovery. This would be by chartered bus with pickup and drop-off in downtown Calgary. We have tentatively booked a slot for a gas plant tour as a part of this excursion. Long time Society members will recall that we ran such a trip more than 10 years ago. It was well attended and quite popular. Cost would be between \$75 and \$125. Please send Clint an e-mail if this is of interest to you. Formal registration will follow later in the Spring.

**Canadian Centre for Energy Information:** The P.H.S. has a "Content, Marketing and Traffic Partnership" with the Centre. This arrangement is an expression of the mutually beneficial cooperation that exists between our two organizations. Please see [www.centreforenergy.com](http://www.centreforenergy.com) for more details. Of particular interest to our members is their on-line historical volume "Evolution of Canada's Oil and Gas Industry" that can be downloaded free of charge.



Canadian Centre  
for Energy Information

[www.centreforenergy.com](http://www.centreforenergy.com)

**Enform Nisku Training Centre 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Enform, the safety association for Canada's upstream oil and gas industries, supplies certifications as well as academic and hands-on training needed to work in the oilpatch. It was created in 1988 with the support of AB Premier Don Getty.

**Devonian Connections:** This term often pops up in Western Canada and has a complicated genealogy as follows: There are rocks in Devon, England that were studied as a part of the early establishment of the geological time scale. That period of time was labeled as “Devonian” and is now understood to span roughly 60 million years from the end of the Silurian Period 419 million years ago to the beginning of the Carboniferous Period 359 million years ago. Strata of this age are very important for the petroleum industry in Western Canada because they include both the conventional resources in the carbonates of the Leduc reefs and the unconventional resources in the shales of the age-equivalent Duvernay Formation. As the geology of the world was gradually revealed, rocks of the same ages as those in Devon were identified as also being Devonian such as those hosting the discoveries made in the late 1940’s south of Edmonton. When Imperial Oil began to develop these fields it built a town for its workers that it naturally called “Devon”. Likewise when Eric Harvie established the vehicle for his charitable works with funds largely derived from the production of oil and gas from Devonian formations, he named it the Devonian Foundation. And the Foundation, in turn, funded projects like Devonian Gardens in downtown Calgary (unfortunately not with Devonian flora and fauna). Finally, the Edmonton Oilers, conscious of their heritage, have chosen to have a goaltender named Devan Dubnyk. It seems that they never were very good at spelling.

**Eamon’s Bungalow Camp:** This historic location out along Highway 1A to the west of Calgary has been the subject of some controversy over the last couple of years. It was established in 1955 and incorporated aspects of both service and accommodation. Corey Hart filmed a video there and the location was popular with many nostalgia buffs. The Texaco gas station architecture is quite unique – but unfortunately the buildings are right in the path of Calgary’s urban sprawl which in this case is the next Light Rail Transit station near Tuscany. Transit, to its credit, has been trying to find some way of incorporating some aspects of the old workings into the station, at least of the iconic sign, but a final resolution still does not seem to have been established.

**“Historic Ramsay factory to receive heritage status”:** An article by this title written by Reid Southwick and Tamara Gignac appeared in the Calgary Herald on January 13, 2014. The text is partially extracted below: “It is said to be among the first oil manufacturing and refining businesses in Western Canada, established in Calgary in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. and now the C. C. Snowdon factory and office will be restored and preserved as a historic landmark. The factory, built by oil baron Campbell Camillus Snowdon, was a major employer during its years of operations from 1911 to 1983 in what is now Ramsay, city records show. Originally producing and refining lubricating oils, grease, gear oil, gas, paints and disinfectants, the operation later added soaps, polishes and cotton waste to its line of products, which were sold under various trademarks including Velox and Sliptivity. Snowdon, a Montreal native who worked for Imperial Oil and Canadian Oil Co. before establishing his own company, C. C. Snowdon, has been recognized as someone who helps define Ramsay many decades after his death in 1935. This reverence to the tycoon, and his place in Calgary’s history, will be taken a step further when his former factory and office at 2010 11 Street S.E. receives formal heritage designation expected later this month. Neil Richardson, who owns the property, plans to have it restored by summer, ready for what will likely be office and retail tenants. Richardson’s crews began restoring the factory and office in June. The developer bought the building in 2008 when most of it was abandoned and the damage from a 1988 fire still had not been repaired. The designation as a municipal historic resource means that it cannot be destroyed or altered without city council’s approval.

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Back issues are archived on our website at [www.petroleumhistory.ca](http://www.petroleumhistory.ca)

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## **PASSINGS (with thanks to the Calgary Herald)**

**Taras “Terry” Storey.** Terry was born on January 2, 1920 in Roblin, Manitoba. He passed away on December 27, 2013 in Calgary, Alberta at the age of 93 years. Terry was raised in Manitoba and attended the University of Manitoba, graduating with his degree in geology. He pursued his love of geology, which took him to Norman Wells, the Middle East, North Africa and South America. Terry worked in the oil and gas industry in Calgary until his retirement. Even following his retirement, Terry pursued his love of geology and philosophy. Terry recently entertained a P.H.S. Luncheon a well illustrated presentation concerning his adventures as a wellsite geologist in the 1940's and 1950's in the Persian Gulf. Your editor also remembers Terry as loving to present unconventional interpretations of geological and petroleum-related problems at technical conferences and was very eager to engage with anyone and all who might have an interest in the subject. A visit to his home was a treat as he had collected many interesting souvenirs from his overseas assignments including a rug that depicted the Shah of Iran. Presumably it was supposed to be a wall hanging!

**Evelyn Doreen deMille.** Evelyn was born on August 1, 1919. She was a well-known bookseller for more than 50 years, and passed away on October 31, 2013, in Calgary at the age of 94 after a long, healthy, active and interesting life. The only child of Hulbert Orser and his war bride, Agnes Pitcher, Evelyn was born in Tristram, Alberta, at the early rural post office administered by her grandparents. As so many other farm girls, Evelyn enjoyed riding horseback four miles each way to and from Ellice's one-room school, collecting gopher tails and crows' eggs for bounty as well as the wonderful freedom of the unspoiled nature of the countryside. She attended Westmount High School in Edmonton and married Harry de Mille in 1940 who predeceased her in 1968. Evelyn opened her first bookstore in Calgary in 1956 and in West Vancouver in 1962. She was the first woman to form a bookstore chain and Evelyn Orser de Mille Books Ltd. grew to three more locations. The business was sold to W. H. Smith in 1973. In 1978 DeMille Technical Books was developed specializing in petroleum books for oil company libraries as well as books covering all non-fiction materials for the trades. McNally Robinson purchased that business in 2002 and operated it in Calgary for several more years. Charles Perry acquired the name "DeMille Technical Books" from McNally Robinson and continues to operate to this day with Evelyn's best wishes and encouragement. In 1973 Evelyn served as the first female president of the Canadian Booksellers Association. She established the Evelyn de Mille Collection on the Book and the Book Arts at the University of Calgary. Her generous gifts brought delight and wonder to students at the University of Calgary, St. Mary's University College, many elementary school classes and calligraphy groups. Evelyn was named Alberta's Women Entrepreneur of the year in 1988 and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Calgary in the same year. She was a lifelong member of the Petroleum History Society. She enjoyed being an active member of the United Empire Loyalists.

**Eric C. Sievwright.** Born September 19, 1925 and passed away January 7, 2014. Eric died peacefully in Fergus, Ontario in his 89th year. Born in Dundee, Scotland, he immigrated to Canada following service as a pilot with the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy in WWII. On a Hudson's Bay scholarship, he completed his Doctorate in Economics at McGill in 1960 on the history of the oil industry in Alberta after Leduc. He went on to Shell Canada in 1953 to join their head office in Toronto and set up the new Economics & Planning Department. Energy was to be his life's career and he became one of Canada's first independent economic consultants in 1963. He consulted and lectured widely in the 1960's and 1970's on petroleum issues.

## HISTORICAL CALENDARS for 2014

P.H.S. Award winner Randal Kabatoff has outdone himself for 2014 in producing not one but two calendars with connections to the history of the oil industry in Western Canada. These “wall books” as Randal has called them, are loaded with supplementary features like time lines and discovery anniversary descriptions. Each month has at least four black and white historical pictures with captions. Copies can be purchased from Randal via his e-mail at [info@soulofcanada.com](mailto:info@soulofcanada.com). Copies are also available at the petroleum Club. Each calendar comes in at \$20.00. Worth every penny (if you recall what that is) and more.

### Canada’s Petroleum Pioneers – 2014 History Showcase

November 2013: After a well is drilled, a service rig takes over  
December 2013: When horsepower really was horse power in the oilfield  
January 2014: Peatland reclamation on petroleum well sites  
February 2014: Hellfire brings engineered solutions to well site problems  
March 2014: Temporary roads solve access challenges for industry  
April 2014: Don Hunter recalls growing up in the oil patch  
May 2014: Turner Valley gave birth to the oil and gas industry in Alberta  
June 2014: From quiet prairie community to hub of the oil world [Nisku]  
July 2014: Well abandonment is a prime responsibility of the industry  
August 2014: A can-do spirit characterized the early road builders  
September 2014: Spudders brought efficiency and portability to the industry  
October 2014: Responsible remediation for end-of-life oil and gas facilities  
November 2014: Surveyors were of crucial importance in the search for oil  
December 2014: Successful soil remediation for remote aboriginal communities

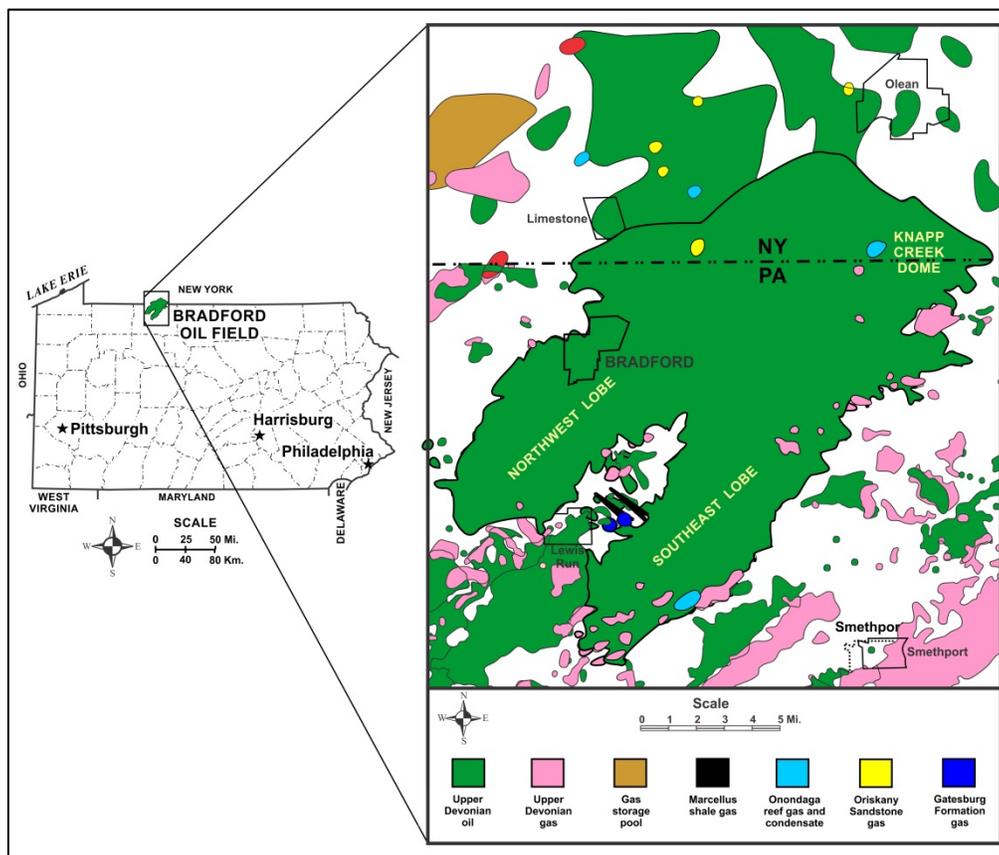
### Canada’s Oil Sands Pioneers – 2014 History Showcase

October 2013: Oil sands along the Athabasca had been known for centuries  
November 2013: Oil pioneer von Hammerstein Fort McMurray’s first driller  
December 2013: Federal Mines engineer Sidney Ells arrives in 1913  
January 2014: The Alberta and Waterways Railway Line  
February 2014: Corduroy roads – corrugated highways of early innovation  
March 2014: From primitive road building to the birth of an industry  
April 2014: McMurray Asphaltum and Oil Ltd. and Thomas Draper  
May 2014: Alberta and the U. of A. initiate oil sands research  
June 2014: The problem: how to extract oil from sand efficiently  
July 2014: Alberta research Council pilot plant started in 1929  
August 2014: In 1923 Robert Fitzsimmons started drilling for oil  
September 2014: Engineer Max Ball and Abasand Oils Ltd. plant  
October 2014: Petroleum cannot be accessed without disturbing the land  
November 2014: First Great Canadian Oil Sands plant opens in 1967  
December 2014: Synthetic crude from buried treasure transforms Alberta

# PHI ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 19-21, 2014

## BRADFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

*The First Giant Oil Field*



Registration costs and additional information will be posted on the PHI web site: [www.petroleumhistory.org](http://www.petroleumhistory.org).

### ACCOMMODATIONS

When contacting the two motels, please identify yourself as part of the PHI meeting.

**Comfort Inn Bradford** - 76 Elm Street - Bradford, PA 16701 - 814-368-6772 (15 rooms; 10 suites; \$115.00 + tax)

**Rooms held until May 19, 2014.**

**Best Western Plus - Bradford Inn**, 100 Davis Street S., Bradford, PA 16701 – 814-362-4501 (15 rooms.; \$90.00 + tax)

**Rooms held until June 12, 2014.**

**Additional accommodation, but no rooms reserved:**

**Mount Laurel Inn B&B**, 136 Jackson Ave, Bradford, PA 16701; 814-362-8006;

**Heritage Suites Inn**, 139 Minard Run Road, Bradford, PA 16701; 814-362-6820/1-800-522-0626;

**Holiday Inn Express**, 30 Tarport Drive Extension, Bradford, PA 16701; 814-362-7090.

**Field Trip, Saturday, June 21, 2014:** Tentative stops to include American Refinery, Penn Bradford Museum, historical stop in Bradford, Pioneer Oil Museum in Bolivar, New York, and the oil seep at Cuba, New York.

**ABSTRACT DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2014 – SEND ABSTRACTS TO: [wbrice@pitt.edu](mailto:wbrice@pitt.edu).**

## SOME KEY TURNER VALLEY REFERENCES (Thanks to Doug Cass)

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Stockmal, G. S., K. Osadetz, D. Lebel et al. "Historical perspectives, hydrocarbon exploration...", in *Structure and Hydrocarbon Occurrence, Rocky Mountain Foothills and Front Ranges, Turner Valley to Waterton Lakes*, Calgary: Geological Survey of Canada, 2001. [Geological Survey of Canada Open File 4111], p. 127-135.

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11  
2002. 1919 Well at Oil City  
S.W. Alberta.



12  
2003. Lineham Well near Waterton Lakes  
S.W. Alberta Aug. 1919.

**Waterton 1919.** These photographs were provided by P.H.S. Director Doug Cass who, in his role as Chief Archivist at the Glenbow Museum and Archives, was reviewing some of the material donated to them by Imperial Oil. Note that in the era of cable tool drilling, wooden rigs were constructed on location and then left there. Drilling and production at Waterton had ceased at least 10 years before these pictures were taken and, indeed, it wasn't until the 1950's that the final remnants of the wooden drilling equipment were finally removed from the site.