

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

March 2024; Volume XXXIV, Number 2

P.H.S. Annual Meeting – Wednesday, March 27, 2024

**Keynote Address: Whence Came the Hydrocarbons?
The Life and Legacy of Ted Link – From Norman Wells to Outer Space
By Dr. Sabrina Perić, Associate Professor, University of Calgary**

You are invited to attend our 2024 Annual Meeting at the Calgary Petroleum Club. We are fortunate to have, as our guest speaker, Dr. Sabrina Perić, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Archeology at the University of Calgary. Sabrina has been conducting research on Dr. Ted Link, one of the giants of Canadian petroleum history. Link is credited with the discovery of the Norman Wells Field in the Northwest Territories in 1920 and was Imperial Oil's Chief Geologist when Leduc was discovered in 1947. Between those dates, Link was very active in trying to pull together the geological history of Western Canada, for example trying to figure out how the structure creating the Turner Valley Field evolved. This promises to be an excellent talk!

Time: 4:00 pm, Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Place: Calgary Petroleum Club
319 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary (Check marquee in main lobby for the room)
Dress – “Business casual” – no ties are required
Cost: Both P.H.S. Members and Non-Members \$25.00
Only cash or cheque at the door. Payment can be made in advance by credit card, e-mail or PayPal. Please advise payment method with reply.
Food: If you have any dietary restrictions, please advise on registration.

Instructions for registering for the Annual Meeting:

Please contact Director Ross Hicks at either 403-271-7753 or via his e-mail at ross_hicks@yahoo.com (note the underscore, not hyphen: ross_hicks). The deadline for registration is Monday, March 25 at noon.

Please be advised that those who register but do not attend or cancel after the deadline will be invoiced. Those who do not register by the deadline may not be accommodated. These restrictions are related to our obligations to the Petroleum Club in terms of catering and seating.

If you are an award winner for the years 2019 through to 2023, or the guest thereof, please advise Ross as there will be no charge for your attendance. Additional guests will need to pay the \$25.00 registration fee.

Agenda

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|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:00 p.m. | Meeting commences |
| 4:05 p.m. | President's Report |
| 4:20 p.m. | Treasurer's Report |
| 4:30 p.m. | Election of P.H.S. Officers, Board and Auditors for the 2024-2025 term |
| 4:45 p.m. | 2021, 2022, and 2023 P.H.S. Award presentations |
| 5:15 p.m. | Keynote address - Dr. Sabrina Perić on Ted Link (see details below) |
| 5:50 p.m. | Questions, answers and discussion |
| 6:00 p.m. | Mix and Mingle with snacks and cash bar – please stay and join us. |

Abstract:

Petroleum geologist Ted Link of Imperial Oil is well known for his Norman Wells discovery in 1920 and for his role at Leduc in 1947. His new exploration techniques helped expand conventional oil industry and also established Alberta as a key player in the geological sciences around the world. This talk, however, will also describe the lesser known aspects of Ted Link's work: his role in the debate over the origins of oil, resource exploration in space, and the establishment of scholarly partnerships across the Cold War divide. In particular, we will look at his contributions to the theories of the origin of hydrocarbons and his conversations with Soviet scientists. While North American scientists, like Ted Link, argued that oil was the result of a mass marine extinction in the late Devonian, Soviet scientists rejected that oil was “decayed fish,” suggesting instead that oil was a primordial material formed through physical processes, and not a “fossil” fuel. We will examine how Link engaged Soviet proponents over their abiotic ideas, and the scientific as well as speculative ways in which they addressed the relationship between organic life and hydrocarbons through discussions on the Alberta Oil Sands and other “strange oils.” We will conclude by thinking about the global impact of Ted Link and his legacy today.

First four men to reach Fort Norman, NWT by airplane. Left Peace River, Alberta on May 29 and arrived at Fort Norman June 12, 1921. Total flying time of 12.5 hours. W. Hill, mechanic; Ted A. Link, geologist; Elmer Fullerton, pilot; W. H. Waddell, surveyor and navigator. (Ted Link.Glenbow Archives/NA-4552-1)



Ted Link (on the left) at a well test

Biography of Dr. Sabrina Perić:

Dr. Sabrina Perić grew up next to an oil refinery, in the deepwater tanker port of Rijeka in the former Yugoslavia. She comes from a family of oil workers, tanker captains and environmental activists. Her research focuses on the anthropology and history of resource extraction in Europe and, more recently, in Canada. Sabrina is particularly interested in the role of industrial scientists, geologists and engineers in resource governance, and their impact on our societies. Her work has been published in Canadian, American and European journals. She is also the co-director of the University of Calgary's Energy Stories Lab, which aims to digitally share the stories of communities across Canada, and their experiences with energy transition. Sabrina received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Harvard University and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Calgary.

The Bull Wheel



Next P.H.S. Luncheon Meeting: Wednesday, May 1st.

Call for contributions and speakers: The Petroleum History Society values your input. If you have an article that you'd like to see in *Archives* or if you have a talk that you'd like to give, please get hold of us. Contact President Clint Tippett or Editor Bill McLellan at the addresses indicated on page 5.

Membership Renewals: P.H.S. Treasurer Ian Kirkland, on behalf of the P.H.S., wishes to thank all members who have sent in updates and/or renewed their memberships! Please send updates to treasurer@petroleumhistory.ca if any of your contact information has changed.

Membership fees will be held at the previous rates of CAD\$30 for individuals and CAD\$100 for corporate/institution.

If you have received notification that your membership is **Paid to end 2023** your membership has ended. Please renew by April 15th. The various payment methods are detailed below.

Those who attend the Annual Meeting without a current P.H.S. membership will not be able to vote on any motions.

You can renew your membership:

- (1) with an Interac e-mail transfer from your bank to treasurer@petroleumhistory.ca - preferred (no fees to P.H.S.) or
- (2) on our website via PayPal with only an email address and a credit card - <http://petroleumhistory.ca/about/member.html#pay>, or
- (3) pay cash at an event, or
- (4) mail a cheque to **Petroleum History Society, c/o Ian Kirkland, Treasurer, 19 Roselawn Cres NW, Calgary T2K 1K7**

Donations and endowments: Thank you to Barrel Oil Corp, Petra Dolata, Rick Green, David Hargrave, Dave Hutchinson, Rod Maier, and Uldis Upitis for their generous donations to P.H.S.!

We would like to ask members to consider adding a small donation to our Society as a part of your estate planning to ensure the preservation of Canadian petroleum history and enable us to promote the contributions made to the Canadian economy by our petroleum industry and by the many dedicated individuals who have been and are involved in it. As you are aware, the P.H.S. does not have charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency and therefore cannot issue tax

receipts – but that does not detract from the worthwhile nature of our endeavors. Thank you for your consideration.

Election: The election of the P.H.S. Executive and Board takes place at our Annual Meeting. This year it will be held, as mentioned above, on March 27 at the Petroleum Club. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please let us know.

Free Student Memberships Available: The Petroleum History Society offers free membership to full-time students until the end of the year in which they graduate. They will receive the same benefits as regular members – *Archives* newsletters and invitations to our events. Membership applications are available at: www.petroleumhistory.ca/about/index.htm#join.

Interesting Presentation: The Chinook Country Historical Society (a Chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta) will be hosting a talk by David Werklund, the author of *The Story of an Entrepreneurial Environmentalist Inside Alberta's Oil and Gas Industry*. The presentation will be held on April 16th at 7:00 pm in the Performance Hall of the Central Library. “He will be sharing his thoughts from his personal and professional perspective. His is a story of a man who embodies the spirit of entrepreneurialism in Calgary”. Please contact the Chinook Country Historical Society for further information.

Looking for New Artwork? David Finch suggests buying a piece of Turner Valley Gas Plant Art. Until late April the Franz Dopf Gallery in Kensington - near the Plaza Theatre and Pages Books - has a display of photos taken by Ken Chow. Small and large, they feature dramatic black and white as well as brilliant colour images from the interiors of buildings at the Turner Valley Gas Plant National Historic Site. For more information see: <https://artmagik.ca/ken-chow>

This is a rare opportunity to get your own piece of art by a talented local photographer who makes amazing mounted pieces, where the image wraps around the edges.

Editorial Comment: Please note that unless otherwise indicated, all contents of this newsletter have been created or assembled by P.H.S. Director and *Archives* Editor, Bill McLellan.

***Archives* is published approximately eight times a year
by the Petroleum History Society for Society members.**

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Back issues are archived on our website at <http://www.petroleumhistory.ca/>

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Jaremko Jottings for P.H.S. Luncheon 28 February 2024

Synopsis of presentation by David Finch

Hours before Gordon Jaremko died on November 28, 2023 he wrote a dispatch for Natural Gas Intelligence, the American publication to which Gordon contributed as a freelancer for decades.

The subject was a dispute between Alberta and Ottawa over petroleum policy. Jaremko's concise and insightful prose summarized the news item in context and explained it in a way that typified his entire career as a writer. It was academically honest, written with a journalist's brevity, conveying the significance of the topic from the perspective of a publisher, with the breadth and depth of a published historian and with the wisdom of a sage.

Scholarship was not always Gordie's strong suit, indeed he started skipping school in Grade 1, drove his teachers to desperation with his lack of commitment to learning in spite of his great brain, and even failed Grade 12 on first try before falling in love with another student and then pulling good enough grades to graduate high school, do well in the history department at the University of Calgary and write one of the most academically superior theses ever submitted for an MA in History in that department.

Law school and teaching unruly junior high school students did not fit him, so he hired on at the Calgary Herald writing obituaries. There Jaremko learned the craft and art and diligence of getting the news story, no matter how grim or to what extent he had to go to get to the meat of the matter. His career as a journalist took him to Edmonton and Ottawa too. He submitted thousands of dispatches for publication in newspaper and magazines. He was the ultimate researcher, always out pounding the pavement in search of the real story – the one behind the press release from the corporate publicity department.

Jaremko also served as editor of several magazines, but in fact he was the publisher in each case. His nose for news and his skills at finding the best sources meant he took charge of each publication he edited and made it the best of its kind. His work ethic was such that he even wrote under the guise of a female pseudonym in order to hide the fact that he often wrote much more content than his employees. During his time at these magazines he won membership into the Petroleum Industry Hall of Fame in 2015 for his decades of journalistic excellence.

Historical publications also boast his name, including several books and articles in history magazines. He once said that he wanted to write content that would appear in books between hard covers because, no matter how much he wrote for newspapers, the stories always ended up folded and put into the bottom of a bird cage the same day the newspaper hit the newsstands. He wrote books about oil and gas, of course, but also one about legendary horsemen who climbed into the saddle in the Canadian West for his good friend and oilman and horse rider Doc Seaman.

But the crowning achievement of Gordon Jaremko's career was the book he titled ***Steward: 75 Years of Alberta Energy Regulation***. Commissioned by the Energy Resources Conservation Board and released in 2013, it stands out as his seminal work. As the peak of his scholarship, journalistic writing, editorial and historical acumen and his wise and insightful pulling together of a vast story, ***Steward*** is the best of the best in the writing about Alberta's oil history. Even still, a decade later he was at his computer in the final weeks of 2023, diligently telling the many stories of oil that his readers had come to expect. He was, to the very end, a teacher of minds. For which we thank him.

David Finch is a public historian, author of more than 30 books, and collaborator with Gordon Jaremko on several publications.



President Clint Tippett presents the Society's 2000 Lifetime Achievement Award to a suitably impish Gordon Jaremko

He was probably due for a second instalment!

**THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA and THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY
A PARTNERSHIP OF DISCOVERY
By William R. S. McLellan**

A Paper Delivered at the Glenbow Museum Library as part of the GSC's 150th Anniversary Celebration - September 30, 1992

The Geological Survey of Canada is older than the country itself and has served Canada with distinction for 150 years now, making it one of the country's oldest and most valued institutions. From its beginnings in Upper and Lower Canada in 1842, the Survey has grown into one of the world's most prestigious scientific organizations. In addition to its extensive scientific contributions to Canada and the world, the Survey, with its systematic search to reveal Canada's extensive mineral and energy resources, lead the way in exploring and mapping this vast land.

The Geological Survey of Canada arose 9 years after Doctor Rae, a member of the Parliament of Upper Canada, petitioned for financial assistance to conduct a resource survey of Upper and Lower Canada. Widely supported by political notables of the day, a petition was placed before the

first United Parliament of Upper and Lower Canada following the Act of Union in 1840. The Parliament debated the petition and on September 10, 1841, resolved:

“that a sum of money not exceeding 1500 Pounds Sterling, be granted to Her Majesty to defray the probable expense in causing a Geological Survey of the Province of Canada”.

In 1842, the Government appointed William E. Logan as Director and the Geological Survey of Canada was born. Under Logan’s 27-year leadership, in addition to extensive geological mapping of the embryonic Canada, the Gaspé Peninsula and the Maritimes were surveyed. The coal measures of Nova Scotia were investigated in considerable detail.

In the earliest years, and even to a considerable but somewhat lesser extent today, geologists with the Survey were jacks-of-all-trades. Often penetrating areas of the Canadian wilderness that no white man had seen before, they were true “explorers” in the 19th Century meaning of the word, acting as geographers, topographers, biologists, and ethnologists (ethnology being the study of the characteristics of different peoples and the differences and relationships between them). They collected information on weather, flora and fauna, water power and agricultural potential; as well as natural waterways for navigation, often mapping rivers and lakes for the first time. They conducted the earliest systematic exploration of the northern half of the North American continent and the islands of the Arctic, recording for the first time the history and customs of many native North American cultures.

As the importance of mineral wealth, including petroleum, in any part of the country became an important consideration of businessmen or politicians, the officers of the Survey played a critical role in the initial investigations and appraisals. The Geological Survey of Canada continues to do this today, particularly in the remote northern regions of the mainland and the Arctic Islands. The partnership between the Geological Survey and the Canadian petroleum industry began long before the epoch-making discovery of oil in Western Canada at Leduc in 1947 or even the first significant gas discovery at Bow Island in 1908.

It began decades earlier with the pioneering explorations of the intrepid Survey geologists and their field party assistants, many of whom went on to illustrious careers in the burgeoning petroleum industry. As exploration for oil and gas in Canada took the industry beyond the plains of Western Canada into the Rocky Mountain foothills, the mainland Northwest Territories and the Yukon, then the Arctic Islands and into the marine areas off Canada’s eastern, western, and northern coasts, the geoscientists of the Survey led the way – on foot, snowshoe, or horseback; by truck, canoe, ship, aircraft, or satellite.

Today, the partnership between the petroleum industry and the Survey is personified in the Geological Survey’s Institute of Sedimentary and Petroleum Geology here in Calgary. All in all, the partnership has been a very fruitful one, with many major scientific, economic, and social accomplishments.

Let us now look more closely at the history of the Survey and its relationship with the petroleum industry, set within the context of significant events in the history of the petroleum industry and of Western Canada. I will focus, primarily, on events and accomplishments prior to 1900.

While the young Geological Survey was engaged in actively evaluating the mineral assets of Upper and Lower Canada, and the maritime areas to the east, the explosive settlement of the American West was causing considerable concern to those living in or responsible for the vast western regions of British North America. Particularly in Rupert's Land, which was then owned by the Hudson Bay Company.

In 1846, the International Boundary was established along the 49th parallel of latitude, extending all the way from the Lake of the Woods to the Pacific Coast, just south of the frontier town of Vancouver. The boundary, however, would not be surveyed until many years later, beginning in 1873.

In 1846, very little was known of the economic potential of the north-west frontier and very little was done to expand this knowledge base until the British and Canadian Governments both launched independent explorations of the area in 1857.



Figure 1. Rupert's Land



Captain John Palliser was commissioned by the British Government and the Royal Geographical Society to lead the first scientific expedition into the west with instructions to explore *“that portion of British North America which lies between the northern branch of the River Saskatchewan and the Frontier of the United States and the Red River and the Rockies.”* With Palliser was Dr. James Hector, surgeon and geologist, who produced the first geological maps of the areas later to become western Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Figure 2. Captain John Palliser (left) and Dr. James Hector (right)

In July of the same year, 1857, the Canadian Government organized and dispatched an expedition led by Henry Youle Hind, Professor of Chemistry and Geology at Toronto's Trinity College. This expedition examined "the country between Lake Superior and the Red River of the North". The following year, Professor Hind returned to explore the area west of the Red River and south of the Saskatchewan River as far as the elbow of the South Branch of the Saskatchewan River.

In Professor Hind's detailed instructions from the Provincial Secretary, he was told to:

"In relation to its geology, you will be guided by the memorandum furnished you by Sir William Logan; giving especial attention, as far as lies within your power, to the following points:

- *The boundaries of formations,*
- *The distribution of limestone,*
- *The collection of fossils*
- *The occurrence of economic minerals, (Ed. Petroleum would be included here)*
- *The exact position of all facts, and the attitude of the rocks."*



Figure 3. Henry Youle Hind (Ed. Petroleum would be included here)

Professor Hind's final reports, published in Toronto and London, included, not surprisingly, detailed geological maps and cross sections, as well as rock and fossil descriptions.

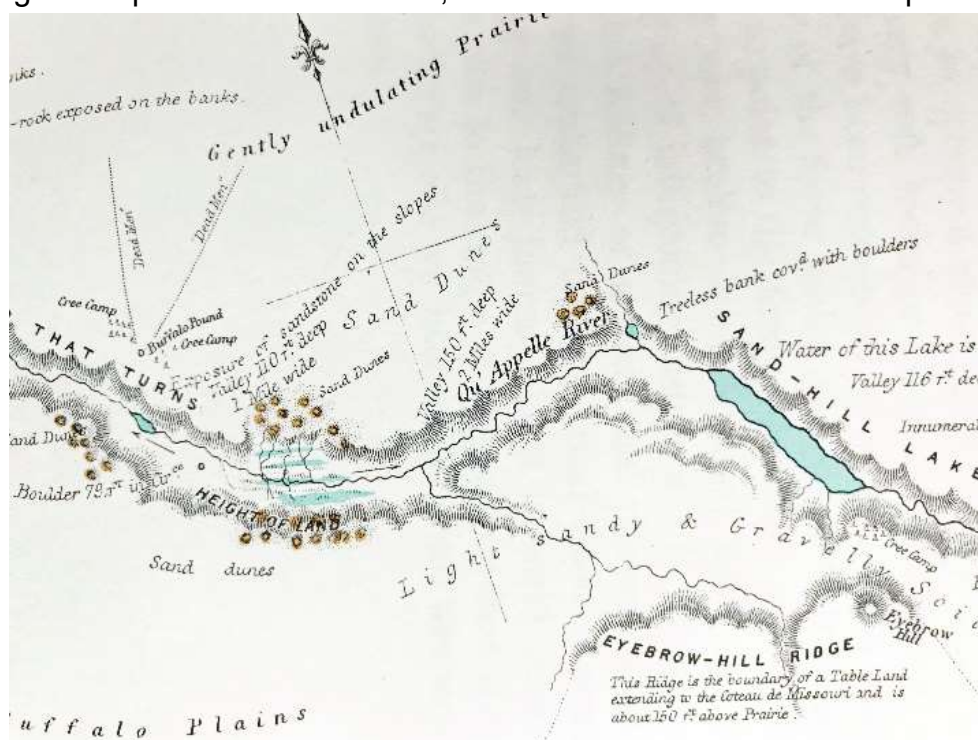


Figure 4. Detail Map of geographic features

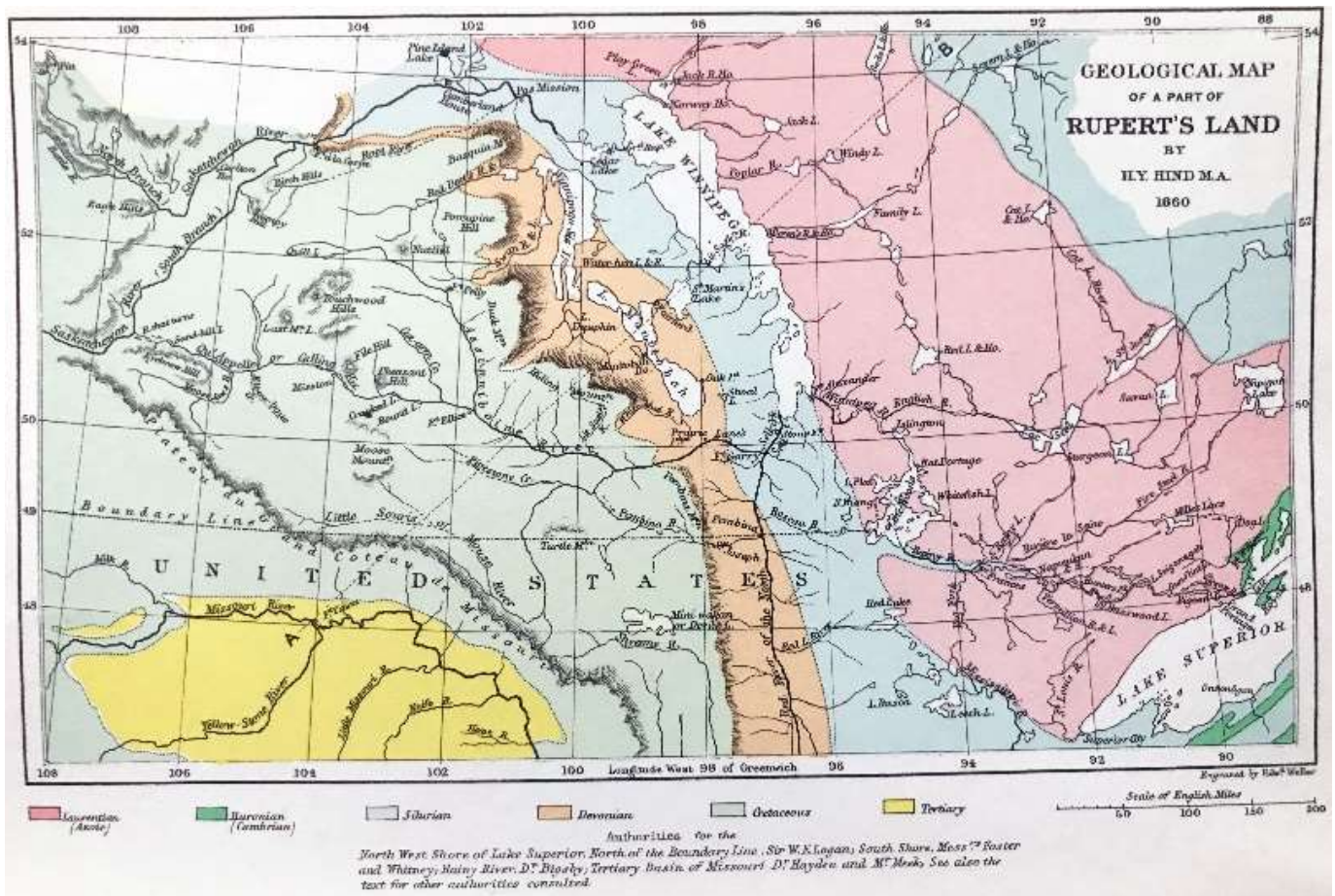


Figure 5. Geological Map of a Part of Rupert's Land

Also in 1857, a Mr. J. M. Williams bought the land and petroleum rights to the Ontario gum beds of Charles Nelson Tripp, who had founded the first oil company in North America to produce asphalt. On his newly acquired property, Williams hand-dug and cribbed a well 49 feet deep upon the advice of the Geological Survey geologists, Sir William Logan and Thomas Sterry Hunt. The well was completed in 1858. It produced as much as 150 gallons of crude oil per hour by hand pump. The crude oil was refined for illuminating oil and lubricants.

This success led to Canada's first oilfield at Petrolia, Ontario.

The long and rewarding relationship between the petroleum industry and the GSC was born! The Drake well on Oil Creek near Titusville, Pennsylvania launched the first North American oil boom the following year.

In 1861, Thomas Sterry Hunt of the Survey formulated the anticlinal theory of oil and gas accumulation. Over the next four years, he determined that oil and gas fields required: a petroleum source bed, the proper attitude of the strata, porous rocks to provide a reservoir for the fluids, and impervious beds above the reservoir to trap or contain these fluids. Eastern Canadian oilmen did not readily accept this radical new theory until American geologist I. C. White demonstrated success using the theory while exploring for natural gas in West Virginia. Officers of the GSC and American oilmen brought this practical scientific concept to Western Canada some years later.

As the North American petroleum industry was being launched, so too were significant political steps occurring that would change the political face of the continent profoundly. The enactment of the British North America Act of 1867 resulted in the Confederation of Canada. The Act included the provision for the new country to assume administration for Rupert's Land. Three years after Confederation, in May of 1870, the Government of Canada finally completed the purchase of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company, and the next day created the Province of Manitoba. With British Columbia entering Confederation in 1871, Canada had assumed responsibility for all the lands to the north and west of the Lake of the Woods as far as the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, excluding of course, Alaska. Within this vast territory would soon be found the oil and gas riches we know today.

As settlement, both south and north of the 49th parallel, expanded westward, it was obvious that the international boundary would have to be surveyed and delineated on the ground. The International Boundary Commission was formed and George Mercer Dawson was appointed geologist. Dawson, who was later to join the GSC and become its Director from 1895 to 1901, noted in his report of 1875, mineral pitch in the Athabasca area where

“there is every possibility that flowing wells might be obtained without going to any great depth.”

And that Devonian rock in Western Canada,

“where it is to a great extent covered by Cretaceous rocks, would if properly explored, be found to yield mineral oil as well as salt.”

Dawson was one of Canada's foremost explorers and map makers. He strengthened the traditions of the Geological Survey of Canada and laid a firm foundation for subsequent geological surveys in the west, by both the GSC and the emerging petroleum industry.

In 1874, while working with the Boundary Commission, Dawson engaged a packer with the Commission, John George Brown – the colourful “Kootenai Brown” as he is now fondly remembered. Kootenai was asked to approach Aborigines in the area of what is now Waterton National Park and ask if they had seen any oil seepages. Just what sparked Dawson to seek an answer to this question is not known. However, Brown was to learn that the Natives indeed knew of seepages on Cameron Brook and had used the oil for medical purposes for generations. Once published, the presence of these seepages was to attract oilmen to the Waterton area for many years, founding the ephemeral centre of Oil City.

Much of Dawson's reconnaissance work was done in British Columbia, some of it with A. R. C. Selwyn when Selwyn was Director of the Survey. Following Selwyn's first trip to British Columbia in 1871, he spent the next two summers getting acquainted with the Northwest Territories. On his field trip of July to October 1873, Selwyn covered some 2,350 miles (3,782 km) between Fort Garry and Rocky Mountain House. During his travels he added to his repertoire of modes of transport. While in B.C. he had used pack trains, canoes, and folding canvas boats. On the prairies he added Red River carts, buckboards, and Hudson's Bay batteaux or Batteau (a “light” river boat, much larger than a canoe, yet smaller than a York Boat, capable of large loads of several tons, yet able to be portaged!). For measuring distances, he attached an odometer to a wagon wheel. He recorded that, while crossing the prairies to Edmonton, his party averaged over 26 miles (42 km) a day.

These field trips on the prairies were very frustrating to the geologist. Days might pass without sighting a single rock outcrop. However, Selwyn did record the presence of coal seams west of Fort Edmonton, and that the chances for oil and salt on the prairies were excellent.

Dr. Robert Bell of the Survey was also in the field during these days. He too was frustrated by the thick glacial drift masking the underlying geology. His work in 1873 took him into what is now southeastern Saskatchewan, between Qu'Appelle and the International Border. He was alarmed at the unrest prevailing in the Aboriginal and Metis populations of the area and suggested that government activities should avoid that area until agreements were made with these populations. No doubt this unrest was fueled by the senseless and savage mass killing of a band of native Assiniboines in the Cypress Hills by white American traders from Fort Benson, Montana.

The only "good" thing to arise from this shameful event was a Canadian determination that such an atrocity would never again occur on Canadian soil. In addition, whiskey traders from Fort Benson were operating illegal posts, such as the notorious Fort Whoop-up in what is now southern Alberta. In May 1873, the Parliament of Canada passed an act providing for the North West Mounted Police. The great police cavalcade of some 300 men left Fort Garry in July of the next year and crossed the prairies.

Dr. Bell also returned to the prairies on behalf of the Survey in the summer of 1874. No doubt feeling somewhat safer! This time, in addition to doing the usual reconnaissance work, he undertook the first well drilling program in Western Canada.

It was hoped that these well borings would answer some of the many questions geologists had regarding the nature of the bedrock under the thick glacial drift of the prairies. Chances were considered to be good for the discovery of artesian water, coal, salt and petroleum. With the aid of an oil well driller from Petrolia, Ontario, one well reached a respectable 501 feet (152.7 metres) using a small, portable drilling outfit. In all, three wells were drilled that year. A fourth and deeper test, slated for a location near Elbow, was postponed until the next season.

In early 1875, while moving the rig which had been stored at Fort Ellice over the winter, R. W. Ells, with a driller named John Highman, had an accident. While crossing the Qu'Appelle River, the scow bearing the boiler shipped water and sank. The boiler was retrieved with considerable difficulty and repaired. As the party continued to press westward, they were halted by a group of Aboriginals who opposed the government projects in the area until a treaty had been signed. The Native leader advised that to continue further would be dangerous. Ells, rather than lose a drilling season, retreated to Fort Carlton on the North Saskatchewan River, where he drilled a 175 foot (53.3 meter) test hole.

Although this pioneering drilling program failed to find oil and gas, it provided very useful geological information and pioneered prairie drilling practices.

Back in Eastern Canada, while all this was going on, the fledgling Canadian petroleum industry was encountering troubles. The Imperial Oil Company Limited was founded in 1880 to counteract the overwhelming competition to Canadian oil applied by American companies. In the 10 years since the Drake well at Titusville in 1859, the Canadian oil industry based in Ontario lost its lead in oil production to the United States. By 1873, the U.S. oil industry was supplying Europe and was even making sales in Canada. Only 3 years earlier, the 100 refineries in Ontario had satisfied the domestic market and shipped 60% of their output to Europe.

The stage was being set for a concentrated exploration for oil and natural gas in Western Canada.

Sources of illustrations:

Figure 1: Wikipedia – The Free Encyclopedia, Wikimedia Commons

Figure 2: Wikipedia – The Free Encyclopedia, Wikimedia Commons

Figure 3: Wikipedia – The Free Encyclopedia, Wikimedia Commons

Figure 4: *Hind, Henry Youle (1860). [Narrative of the Canadian Red River Exploring Expedition of 1857 and of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan Exploring Expedition of 1858](#). London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. Reprint edition by M. G. Hurtig Ltd. 1971.*

Figure 5: *Hind, Henry Youle (1860). [Narrative of the Canadian Red River Exploring Expedition of 1857 and of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan Exploring Expedition of 1858](#). London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. Reprint edition by M. G. Hurtig Ltd. 1971.*

The second half of “A Partnership of Discovery” will appear in the next issue of *Archives*.

TRUDEAU VS. TRUDEAU – HOW THINGS CHANGE

Some pundits have likened the environmental initiatives of the current Trudeau Liberal Government to the imposition of the National Energy Program in 1980 by the regime of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Justin’s father. There are certainly similarities in the sense that the federal government is once again in conflict with the provinces in terms of policy and constitutional jurisdiction. But that’s where the parallel ends.

The National Energy Program was built on the belief that the petroleum industry has value and, indeed, is vital to Canada’s existence. One key pillar was nationalism, expressed through the use of the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax (PGRT) to fund the Canadianization-driving Petroleum Incentive Program (PIP) subsidies for drilling in the Frontiers. A second pillar was security of supply – the belief that Canada needed to be more self-sufficient in order to be protected against global forces and the threat of embargoes. This drove companies to explore in an effort to establish what Canada’s petroleum heritage (or bounty) actually is, setting (hopefully) the stage for future development. There were other threads like energy conservation but politically, nationalism and security of supply were the critical components. Taken together, these beliefs meant that the petroleum industry represented a critical value centre for Canada. For more details, I refer readers to the overview of the NEP that was contained in our December 2020 issue of *Archives* on the 40th anniversary of that multifaceted initiative.

In contrast, today’s federal leadership is climate change-driven and seems to be of the belief, whether spoken or implicit in its actions, that the petroleum industry is a bad thing and that the sooner we get rid of it the better. It is beyond the scope of these short comments to get into the reasons that this is a flawed world view – but let’s just say that Pierre Elliott Trudeau is probably rolling in his grave about what his successors are up to.

- Clint Tippett, President - Petroleum History Society