

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

November 2025; Volume XXXVI, Number 5

P.H.S. Luncheon – Wednesday, November 26, 2025

A Closer look at the British American Oil Company: A P.H.S. Student Showcase

***By: Dr. Sabrina Perić and her students: University of Calgary,
Department of Anthropology and Archeology***

You are invited to our next Luncheon Meeting on Wednesday, November 26, at the Calgary Petroleum Club. The luncheon will feature University of Calgary Professor Sabrina Perić and a number of her students. They will be presenting the results of their work on various aspects of the British American Oil Company, a prominent operator in Canada and the United States between 1906 and 1969. We are very pleased to have Sabrina and her students join us as their research focus is one of the few remaining in Western Canada related to the petroleum industry. It is great to see students engaged in this work. And also, a shout-out to ConocoPhillips whose sense of corporate responsibility led to the donation of the documents underlying this research.

Please see page 2 for session details.

Time:	12 noon, Wednesday, November 26, 2025
Place:	Calgary Petroleum Club 319 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary (Please check the marquee for the room) Dress – business casual.
Cost:	P.H.S. Members and Student Members \$40; Guests \$45 (most welcome). Only cash or cheque at the door. Payment can be made in advance by Interac or PayPal transfer to treasurer@petroleumhistory.ca Please advise payment method with reply.
Lunch:	Soup, sandwiches and cookies. Gluten-free? Vegan? Advise with reply.

NOTE: Instructions for registering for the Luncheon

Reply, if you wish to attend, to Treasurer Ian Kirkland via his email
treasurer@petroleumhistory.ca

The deadline for registration is Monday, November 24 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.

As part of an archival gift from ConocoPhillips, University of Calgary Libraries and Cultural Resources recently received the records of the British American Oil Company. Incorporated in 1906, B/A Oil was primarily a refiner and marketer of petroleum products in its earlier years. Following the discovery of oil at Leduc in 1947, however, the company became an important explorer and petroleum producer before it was fully acquired by Gulf Oil in 1969. Though B/A Oil's records provide an intimate look at the rapid growth and formalization of a previously small company, little has been written about B/A Oil's history. In early 2025, undergraduate students at University of Calgary were given the opportunity to take a first look at the B-A Oil records as part of a class on "Energy, Power, and Society" with Dr. Sabrina Perić. Over the course of January – April 2025, they conducted research and wrote some of the first scholarly papers about B/A Oil based on these archives. This P.H.S. Student Showcase will highlight the work of five of these students, provide a look into some of the fascinating documents in this collection, and celebrate the next generation of energy historians. The presentations will include:

1. **Yessenia Montoya Castro's** "Who Controls the Ads Controls the Culture," will take a deeper dive into B-A Oil's innovative approach to the advertisement and marketing of petroleum products to Canadians, and how they aimed to appeal to a broad swatch of middle-class consumers.
2. **Sarah Lesyk's** presentation "Driving Antique Vehicles and the Demand for Cars," explores B-A Oil's sponsorship of antique automobile tours and its role in driving consumer demand for cars amongst men and women in Canada.
3. **Gabby Barber** will present on "The Face of B-A," which discusses the role of masculinity in B-A company culture by taking a closer look at both career advancement for men in B-A, as well as the centering of masculinity in B-A Oil's advertisement campaigns.
4. **Miller Linke** will discuss "Canada's Atomic Heart: The Opening of B-A Oil's R&D Facility at Sheridan Park, Ontario", taking a closer look at how ideas about technical innovation and research became critical to oil companies in the mid 20th century both for proprietary and marketing reasons.
5. **Lauren Powell** takes a deep dive into "Corporate Image and Social Responsibility: B-A's Marketing Tactics at the Rimbey Gas Plant," looking at how B-A's public attempts at ethical engagement, regulatory compliance and social responsibility operated in tension with profit maximization.

The Bull Wheel



Next P.H.S. Luncheon Meetings: The next scheduled luncheon after the November 26, 2026 event is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

P.H.S. Membership: The Petroleum History Society welcomes and encourages anyone interested in Canadian petroleum history to consider membership. Individuals are only \$30/year, corporate \$100/year, and full-time students are free until the end of the year in which they graduate. Students receive the same benefits as regular members – *Archives* newsletters and invitations to our events.

Membership renewals: Towards the end of the year or into January we will be issuing renewal notices to the Society's membership. We hope to retain your loyalty and support. Remember that membership in the P.H.S. now brings with it membership in the Turner Valley Oilfield Society, another great organization.

Payments: for memberships can be made by Interac or Paypal transfers to treasurer@petroleumhistory.ca, cheque, or cash paid at events. Membership details can be found on the P.H.S. website <http://www.petroleumhistory.ca/about/member.html> and in our brochure <http://www.petroleumhistory.ca/about/phsBrochure.pdf>

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 a hold of us. Contact President Clint Tippet or Editor Bill McLellan at the email addresses indicated on the next page.

Anniversary – Petroleum History Society. Readers should remember that 2025 marks the 40th anniversary of the 1985 establishment of the P.H.S. Our Vice-President, Bill McLellan, authored a comprehensive lookback to those early days in an *Archives* column that appeared in the February 2024 issue. In it he detailed two parts of our early activity – the very successful oral history projects, on the one hand, and the disappointing failure of plans to create a "Centre for Petroleum Industry History" on the other. The back issues of *Archives* are available for reference on the P.H.S. website. Please maximize your use of *Archives* – it has captured a huge amount of information over the years.

Petroliana. This is the collection of artifacts that have to do with the petroleum industry – gas pumps, oil tins, old kerosene lamps, signs, etc. You often see such things on TV shows featuring "pickers". P.H.S. Treasurer Ian Kirkland recently brought to our attention two recent examples. One is a gas pump "graveyard" at a 101-year-old ex-Mobil service station called "Pete's Service" in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. There, dozens of old service station gasoline

dispensers cover the yard. Some can be identified with specific companies while others are more generic. Of course, some are worthless junk due to their condition while others, in better shape, are worth another look. Top quality pumps can easily be worth thousands of dollars. Re-furbishing such equipment is a mini-industry in itself. Ian's other find was an on-line auction from the Fairbairn Collection back in June. Amongst cars and various knickknacks were oil industry signage and tins. A collection of about 20 Sinclair product tins went for \$350 and a Sinclair countertop rack with travel maps went for \$650. An En-AR-CO sign featuring that iconic "Slate Boy" fetched \$1600. [Enarco was the U.S.-based National Refining Company that owned Ontario-based Canadian Oil for a period back in the early part of the 20th century].

Bit Player. On October 8, 2025, in another episode of the ongoing U.S.-China trade war, it was reported that Chinese export controls were targeting tungsten supplies. Tungsten makes up as much as 75% of the drill bits used in the oilfields. Tungsten prices jumped to over \$600 per ton. Polycrystalline diamond compact (PDC) bits, known as the "workhorse of the industry" according to SLB (formerly Schlumberger), range in cost from \$20,000 to \$100,000 and were expected to jump in price by \$3,000 to \$25,000. China controls more than two thirds of global tungsten production.

Another One Bites the Dust: I intended to do some browsing at my favourite map store the other day but was disappointed to find it now abandoned. I am referring to Maptown that was formerly on the ground level of the Roslyn Building at 5 Ave. and 3 St. SW. It seems that Maptown now exists only as an on-line shop – maps@maptown.com. Just not the same sort of browsing. The Roslyn Building was once home to the headquarters of Chevron Canada until they moved into new quarters a block west in the late 1980's. [And I guess that occupancy is now basically history as well with Chevron's sale of most of its Canadian assets.]. I interviewed with Chevron in the Roslyn Building in 1979, meeting famous geologists including Dave Organ. I ultimately went with Shell though. Roslyn's lobby is famous for some beautiful building stone – red fossil-rich panels with amazing textures. It was a must-see on our downtown geology walking tours.

Solid Pipeline Engineering: Talk of a Trans-Alaskan natural gas pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to the Pacific as part of an LNG export plan has raised concerns about safe transit of infrastructure across this tectonically active region. In an example of how good design has been able to shield pipelines from serious damage, the TAPS (Trans-Alaskan Pipeline System) oil pipeline was struck by a major earthquake in 2002 on the intersecting Denali Fault causing several meters of lateral displacement. The line had been engineered to be able to accommodate this sort of offset without rupturing. Perhaps this should not be surprising as there is a tremendous amount of petroleum production in the seismically active parts of California and Southeast Asia. Western Canadian pipelines such as TransMountain and Coastal Gaslink also cross major faults – as would a renewed Northern Gateway. Objections based on speculative vulnerability to earthquakes are poorly founded.

Bill Whitelaw Substack Postings: P.H.S. Director Bill Whitelaw is a keen student of the Canadian petroleum industry and has played many roles in it over the years. One of his key products is a topical blog addressing the many challenges and opportunities that we face these days. If you would like to tune in, please go to [Billwhitelaw.substack.com](https://billwhitelaw.substack.com) and sign up.

Sir William Logan: This gentleman founded the Geological Survey of Canada in 1842 and was one of our most famous scientists. Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak, is named in his honour. Sir William passed away in 1875. Hence 2025 is the 150th anniversary of our loss.

Blue Jays Connection: Those of you with sharp eyes will have noticed that Jays pitcher Max Scherzer has an unusual trait – specifically that his two eyes are not the same colour. His left is dark brown and his right is blue. This condition is known as *Heterochromia iridum*. I mention this because Colonel Drake of 1859 Pennsylvania Oil fame had the same condition. Too bad Max wasn't quite as successful (at least for the Jays) as Drake was for the petroleum industry.

Getting to the Truth: Former P.H.S. Director Deborah Jaremko, writing for the Canadian Energy Centre, identified five major myths about Canada's oil sands. Those fallacies are: that oil sands emissions are unchecked (fact - they are strictly regulated and monitored), that there is no demand for oil sands production (fact – it is strong and rising), that oil sands projects cost too much (fact – they deliver some of the cheapest oil around), that indigenous communities don't support the oil sands (fact – they play active and critical roles), and that oil sands development only benefits people in Alberta (fact – all Canadians benefit). Having said all of those things, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. Some people will never be convinced.

Big Project at Suncor: If you like big toys, you will love this one. Suncor recently undertook a major revamp of part of its facility at Fort McMurray. It was called the "Suncor Coke Drum Integrity Project". Coking is, of course, part of the process of upgrading bitumen into petroleum with less heavy ends. The progress of the project was visually recorded and can be viewed on Youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJHTrY9d8yg>

You Know You Are an Oilman When. One of the odd quirks of working in the oilfield is that certain combinations of numbers often trigger memories of individual wells with the connection being that the numbers relate to the well designations and locations. For example, 10-17 makes me think of well 10-17-23-6W5 that was the first well that I had some geological responsibility for back in 1980. It was drilled on the leading edge of the subsurface stack at Moose Mountain and, although it was a dry hole (I didn't propose the well), it had a few exciting moments. We were drilling towards a Total Depth (TD) of 4800m, far deeper than the primary objective, but encouraged by provincial drilling incentives, with a purpose of calibrating the deeper part of the structure. I received a phone call on Christmas Eve saying that a drilling break had been recorded in the upper part of the Devonian and asking if I wanted to call a core point. That was not in the plan, and I had no authority to do so. I declined the opportunity. When we logged the well that interval was indeed slightly porous, but it was wet, so we didn't really miss anything important.

Editorial Comment: Please note that unless otherwise indicated, all contents of this newsletter have been created and/or assembled by P.H.S. President Clint Tippet.

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

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THE FINANCIAL POST SURVEY OF OILS

The British American Oil Company Limited

Head Off.—800 Bay St., Toronto. **Listed**—T. M. V. A. **Trans. Agents**—Chartered Trust Co., Toronto and Montreal; National Trust Co., Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver; The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Halifax, Saint John, N.B., and Regina; Registrar & Transfer Co., New York, N.Y.

Company — (Dom., 1909). A fully integrated oil company engaged directly or through subsidiaries in production, transportation, refining and distribution of petroleum products. Sales outlets number approx. 7,500 retail and wholesale outlets. Of retail outlets, co. owns or controls 700 service stations. Owns 5 refineries with combined daily crude capacity of 95,700 bbls. Absorption plant in Turner Valley has capacity of 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 cu. ft. gas daily. Crude oil runs were 32,319,000 bbls. in 1955, compared with 29,199,000 bbls. in 1954.

The co. completed its first major grease manufacturing plant early in 1953 at its refinery at Clarkson, Ont.; potential yearly output 15 million lb. New catalytic cracking and polymerization units were completed by July, 1954. A catalytic reformer, to increase octane rating was completed at Calgary early in 1955. At Montreal, a 13,000-bbl. catalytic reformer was installed during 1955. A \$4,000,000 catalytic 10,000-bbl. reforming unit is under construction at Clarkson, to be completed early 1957. A 40,000-bbl. crude and vacuum unit at Clarkson is scheduled for completion late 1957.

Acquisition of Canadian Gulf Oil Co.—In May, 1956, shareholders approved an offer made by the company to Gulf Oil Corp. to acquire from Gulf Oil all the outstanding common stock of Canadian Gulf Oil Co. in exchange for 8,335,648 restricted common shares. B.A. thus becomes more than 60% owned by Gulf Oil Corp., which also holds approx. 2,307,000 regular common shs.

Western Canada Operations—At Oct. 1, 1956, the company and Canadian Gulf had a net total of 643 wells in Western Canada capable of production, and combined acreage held totaled approximately 11,000,000 acres. Several oil, gas and condensate discovery wells were completed in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia in 1956.

At Dec. 31, 1955, Canadian Gulf had working interests in 542 oil and condensate wells capable of production in 28 different fields of Western Canada. In the first half of 1956 Canadian Gulf drilled 28.3 successful oil wells and 2.7 successful gas wells. Net reserves of crude oil, condensate and natural gas liquids were estimated at 300,000,000 bbls. Company also had total net reserves of natural gas in Canada of approx. 3 trillion cu. ft., a large part located in the Pincher Creek field.

Net crude production of Canadian Gulf in 1955 amounted to 8,964,000 bbls., an average of 24,560 bbls. per day.

In Oct., 1955, a contract was signed by Canadian Gulf with Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Ltd. calling for deliveries of gas in increasing annual quantities up to an eventual level of 175,000,000 cu. ft. per day. Construction of the gas conservation plant at Nevis, and the sulphur plant at Pincher Creek, both in Alberta, were scheduled for completion late 1956.

British American Oil (continued)

In addition to crude oil and gas reserves, Canadian Gulf also has extensive pipeline holdings in Western Canada and through a wholly owned subsidiary, Canadian Gulf Pipe Line Co., operates a pipeline system consisting of 137 miles of trunk lines and 107 miles of gathering lines. The company also has share interests in Trans Mountain Oil Pipe Line and Interprovincial Pipe Line Co. of 7.1% and 8.7% respectively; 11% in the Peace River Oil Pipe Line Co.; and since the beginning of 1956 has acquired a 17% interest in Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Ltd.

During 1955, 55 wells were drilled in the western provinces by B. A. Oil itself or in partnership with others, resulting in 41 producing oil wells, two gas wells and 12 dry holes.

Two oil discoveries were made during the year; in the Erskine area of Alberta and the South Maples area of Manitoba. The co. was also active in the newly discovered Kingsford and Nottingham fields of Saskatchewan.

At Dec. 31, 1955, B.A. owned or had an interest in 167 oil and 21 gas wells in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Transportation — B.A. holds 18% stock interest in Portland-Montreal Pipe Line, serving Portland to Montreal on year-round basis; daily capacity 200,000 bbls. of crude oil. In 1950 acquired 15% interest in Platte Pipe Line Co., running from Wyoming oil fields to Wood River, Ill.; capable of transporting 195,000 bbls. crude oil per day. Has a 50% interest in Sterling Pipe Line System linking co.'s oil fields in Colorado with the Platte Pipe Line. The company has 1/3 interest in the 442-mile, 50,000-bbl. capacity, Trans-Northern Pipe Line built to transport finished products from Montreal to Toronto and Hamilton (with a branch line to Ottawa).

A 21-mile pipeline is owned and operated in the Redwater field, Alta., and a 22-mile pipeline, also owned, connects the line of Interprovincial Pipe Line Co. with the co.'s Moose Jaw refinery.

In 1955 co. employed average of some 1,400 railway tank cars and some 500 co.-owned tractor-trailers, etc., supplemented by other transport on part-time basis. Owns two tankers and holds others under long-term charter.

Operations in U. S. A. — The British-American Oil Producing Co., a wholly owned subsidiary, is engaged in production and exploration in the United States.

At Dec. 31, 1955, it owned producing property in 13 states, operated 707 oil and 68 gas wells and owned a working interest in an additional 1,618 oil and 72 gas wells operated by others, all in the U. S.

During 1955, 234 wells were drilled by co. and partners of which 97 produced oil and 17 were gas-producers.

Drilling is continuing. Discoveries were made in Texas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Colorado.

In 1956, successful wells were brought in in the Bisti-Gallup field in New Mexico and in the Headlee field in Texas. Two new oil pools were discovered in Colorado.

During 1953, co. initiated pressure maintenance project by water flooding of Steamboat Butte field, Wyo., in effort to increase recoverable reserve from one of co.'s most important fields.

Stock ownership of **The Toronto Pipe Line Co.** was transferred to The British-American Oil Producing Co. in 1946 to effect certain economies and closer co-ordination. Operates about 391 miles of gathering pipelines. In 1955 gathered and transported about 20,367,000 bbls. of crude.

Reserves — Net proven developed reserves of crude oil of B.A. and Canadian Gulf were estimated at over 413 million bbls. at Dec. 31, 1955, of which 326 million bbls. were in Western Canada and 87 million bbls. in the U. S. Net recoverable gas reserves estimated at 3.404 trillion cu. ft. of which 3.104 trillion cu. ft. were in Canada and 300 billion cu. ft. in U. S.

Production — Net crude production in Western Canada during the fourth quarter of 1956 averaged 36,200 bbls. per day; in the United States over 25,000 bbls. per day of oil and net gas production exceeded 50,000,000 cu. ft. per day.

Jointly Owned Company — B. A. Shawinigan Limited—Formed in 1951, jointly owned by British American Oil and Shawinigan Chemicals Ltd. Manufactures phenol and acetone from raw materials supplied by British American's Montreal East refinery. Commenced operations early in 1953.

THE CALGARY PETROLEUM CLUB 1950

The following article was provided to us by the family of E. H. LaBorde via P.H.S. Member and Auditor Tom Field. It has been transcribed. The publisher of its original publication is not known. Thanks to Tom for taking the time to send this to us and to the LaBorde family.



Signing the Duke of Windsor (seated) into his membership in the Calgary Petroleum Club, 1950.
Standing from left to right: C. O. Nickle, J. H. Bevel and E. H. LaBorde.

Calgary, befitting its position as Canada's Oil Capital or the operating headquarters for the host of Canadian, American and European firms participating in the great Western Provinces Oil Play, is host to the top social organization in the oil industry in the nation.

The organization is the "Calgary Petroleum Club". The C.P.C. was born late in 1948, when a small group of Canadians and Americans gathered in Calgary to discuss ways and means of getting "oil people" based in Alberta better acquainted with one another, and to provide facilities for social activities. The need was apparent, for in Calgary were – and are – several hundred oil company executives and technicians, representatives of oil industry supply and service firms

and representatives of other businesses and industries which contribute directly and indirectly to the wellbeing of Oil.

The C.P.C. idea received an enthusiastic response from members of the oil industry, and the Club was incorporated on the model of Petroleum Clubs already established in many United States oil centres.

Today the C.P.C. has over 400 members. Its headquarters are in the Palliser Hotel, where luncheons are held, and other special club facilities have been made available. Social functions, in which wives, families and friends of members participate, are held periodically. Recently the C.P.C. has established exchange privileges with the Edmonton Petroleum Club which was organized a few months ago; and with several Petroleum Clubs in the United States.

First President of the C.P.C. was John H. Bevel, General Agent in charge of Canadian Gulf Oil Company operations in western Canada. Vice-President during the Club's first year was S. F. Heard, President of Royalite Oil Company Limited.

President of the Club for 1950 is Carl O. Nickle, Publisher of the Daily Oil Bulletin. Vice-President is E.H. LaBorde, Managing Director of Pan-Western Oils Limited.

The 1950 twelve-man Board of Governors is a cross-section of the Canadian-American industry based in Calgary. In addition to Messrs. Bevel, Heard, Nickle and LaBorde, the Governors include: T. L. Brook, President, British Dominion Oil Corporation Limited; R. C. Brown, General Manager, Hudson's Bay Oil Company Limited; R. B. Curran, Division Manager, Imperial Oil Limited; C. C. Cross, President, Globe Oil Company Limited; J. O. Galloway, Consulting Geologist; F. M. McMahon, President, Pacific Petroleums Limited; C. F. Schock, Division Manager, Stanolind Oil and Gas Company; and J. G. Spratt, Vice-President, Anglo-Canadian Oil Company Limited.

The most famous member of the C.P.C. is the Duke of Windsor, who was presented with an Honourary Membership during his visit in April 1950 (see accompanying picture). The Duke qualified for membership in the oil fraternity because of his personal effort to drill for oil on his famed E.P. Ranch, southwest of Calgary. He still retains the oil and gas rights under his ranch, which still offers a prospect for production.

SIDE NOTE ACCOMPANYING THE ARTICLE:

The Western Canada Petroleum Association is a non-profit organization. Its objects are to assist members in all phases of their activities, to foster cordial relations, and to cooperate with governments in all matters of national concern. The 1950 executive is Pres. J. G. Spratt; Executive Vice-president and General Manager G.W. Auxier. K.C.; Sec.-Treas. G. L. Humphreys; First Vice-President S. F. Heard; and Second Vice-President R. C. Brown. The Association's address was indicated to be 309 Lancaster Building, Calgary.

Note: This would appear to be an early forerunner of the Canadian Petroleum Association (CPA) and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). J. G. Spratt, S. F. Heard and R. C. Brown appear to have been doing double duty.



CALL FOR PAPERS

**PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE
2026 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
AND FIELD TRIP
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA**



The World of West Coast Petroleum
April 16-18, 2026

REGISTRATION AND EVENING RECEPTION

Thursday, April 16, 2026

PRESENTATIONS-ORAL AND POSTER – Friday, April 17, 2026

Proceedings to be published in the 2026 Volume of **Oil-Industry History**

FIELD TRIP – Saturday, April 18, 2026

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL – Double Tree by Hilton, Bakersfield, California

RLBK_DT_Hotel@hilton.com, or (661)-323-7111 or (661) 632-2202

For group Rate mention “Petroleum History Institute”

REGISTRATION DETAILS TO FOLLOW

ABSTRACTS BEING ACCEPTED

Deadline: March 1, 2026

Please send abstracts to: Dr. William Brice - wbrice@pitt.edu
or call Co-chair Vaughn Thompson – (805) 794-0070; geologistvaughn@gmail.com

THE TWIN CITIES HOTEL – LONGVIEW, ALBERTA

This hotel, by the side of Highway 22 in the middle of Longview, is a popular stopping place for a range of ranchers, bikers, community members and passersby. It has a small stage and dance floor, pool tables as well as a front patio. Their well-stocked bar even includes a brew called Little New York (after Longview's oil boom nickname). Not sure about the "hotel" part.

Beside the hotel is a large rusty iron rig structure, built as a monument. Adjoining it is a range of old drilling and production equipment. Unfortunately, there is little in the way of explanations.

I have stopped in there many times – and as someone interested in petroleum history, the best part of the hotel is the numerous hand-coloured photographs of early Turner Valley wells being production tested with flaring (although I suspect that most people think they are blowing out).

There is a large plaque on the wall beside the bar, explaining the origins of this refuge:

WHO BUILT THE TWIN CITIES HOTEL?

The builder of this hotel, Mervyn "Red" Dutton, was truly larger-than-life. Dutton (defence – New York Americans) and two other NHL hockey stars, brothers Tiny (goalie – Boston Bruins) and Paul Thompson (forward – Chicago Black Hawks) were chatting in a hotel room back in 1937.

There may have been alcohol involved. Knowing there was an oil boom happening in the Longview (Little New York) area, they said "Hey, why don't we get a liquor licence and build a hotel down there?". Built in 60 days, the Twin Cities Hotel was Red's first "big" project, opening September 2, 1938. Red was the bouncer on opening night.

Red had survived terrible wounds during WWI near Vimy Ridge and had convalesced for 17 months. By sheer force of will, he recovered to become a hockey star, ultimately with the New York Americans. He played defence, held several penalty records, became one of the first Player/Coaches in the NHL, then Manager. After his playing days ended, he was NHL Commissioner 1943-1946, custodian of the Stanley Cup for 50+ years, awarded the Order of Canada and posthumously awarded the prestigious Lester Patrick Award in 1993 for his massive contribution to hockey in the United States.

Once he quit playing hockey, he returned to Calgary to focus on construction. He founded Standard General, Burns & Dutton and other companies. Dutton built McMahon Stadium, also built in 60 days on a \$1,000 bet with Frank McMahon, which he won. He went on to build the Calgary International Airport, Glenmore Causeway, the two Jubilee Auditoriums, Chinook Mall, Chinook Drive-In Theatre and many other structures. But the little old Twin Cities Hotel was his first project and still stands – a vibrant place for socializing, music, food and checking in. Born in Russell, Manitoba on July 23, 1897, Mervyn "Red" Dutton died in Calgary at the age of 89 on March 15, 1987.

I believe that up until recently there was a Dutton's Canadian Lounge at the Saddledome. It seems to have been rebranded as a Molson's "Hockey House" Sports Bar.

The proprietor of the hotel was, up until very recently, Chris Goss. Chris unfortunately passed away in early November. Chris's picture, from a recent visit, is on the next page.



Twin Cities Hotel proprietor Chris Goss in happier times.



The Twin Cities Hotel, Longview, Alberta

REMEMBRANCES

(with thanks to Calgary Herald Obituaries)

Note: these tributes have been thinned down from their original versions in order to focus on the industry and industry-related accomplishments of the individuals covered. No disrespect is intended by the editing out of personal information.

Both well-known people and the “foot soldiers” are included as they all have contributed to the growth and success of our industry. In some cases, selected family members are also added because without their support, many facets of our activities would not have been possible.

JEPSON, Donald Richard. Born January 18, 1933 and passed away November 1, 2025. Donald was born in Brandon, Manitoba as the eldest of three children. His father's career, working for Weston Grocers, meant Don's early years were spent moving amongst Winnipeg, Yorkton, and Moose Jaw. In 1950, Don left home to attend the University of Saskatchewan, graduating in 1954 with a degree in Chemical Engineering. Don was the first in his family to attain a university degree. His career began in Saskatchewan's oil and gas industry and, in 1957, he moved to Calgary. He was soon relocated to Regina followed by a return to Calgary. Don's professional journey included senior roles at Medallion, Norcen and Algas, before he ventured into entrepreneurship, founding several junior oil and gas companies. Don was well respected in the business world, spent time as a Director of several companies and mentored many young executives around Calgary, sharing his knowledge and passion for the business. His oil patch years brought lifelong friendships.

MAIER, Gerald James. Born September 2, 1928 and passed away November 4, 2025. It was always with pride that Gerry reported his birthplace as the same farm near Kronau, SK, that his paternal grandparents from Western Europe settled on in 1888. That was years before Saskatchewan became a province! His maternal grandparents came to Canada from Central Europe after several years in Brazil. Gerry never ceased to praise his parents and grandparents for their intellectual, mental, and physical strengths that gave them the ability to survive and prosper. Miraculously, they did, despite the seemingly insurmountable challenges of the "Great Depression" and the “plague” of Western Canada's prairies. Gerry often reflected on the cooperative support provided by members of his family. An example was the very strong encouragement and insistence that he received to continue with school after grade eight, despite the fact there were no teachers at their school for such classes. Written lessons and exams were available from the provincial government, but his mother was the person who indirectly did the teaching. A second example was his selection of Notre Dame College for grades eleven and twelve. Cost was undoubtedly a factor, but Gerry later regarded the Notre Dame selection as one of the more important decisions of his life. It was there that he grasped not only the fundamental importance of a secondary education but, most importantly, the opportunity to develop and implement thoughtful leadership among his peers.

After high school, Gerry's career and experience was extremely diverse. He started out working underground in a Flin Flon, MB, hard rock mine. After two years, he pooled his money with his chum and a young geologist to conduct prospecting and staking claims in the far north of Manitoba. Fortunately, the gamble paid off, and Gerry then had the money to reset his career by entering the Engineering Faculty at the University of Manitoba. Two years later, he transferred to the University of Alberta, where he ultimately graduated in Petroleum Engineering. He was forever grateful for underground mining, staking mining claims, oilfield roughneck jobs, and a major surveying experience in the Rocky Mountains, all of which provided funding for his

engineering education. Following graduation in 1951, Gerry pursued his career with Sun Oil Co., Cactus Engineering, and Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas. A major career shift occurred when he was offered and accepted a position in Australia with Conoco, a major owner of Hudson's Bay. That move taught him many new aspects of operation, supervision, and management applicable to an entire continent and adjacent ocean. After three years he was moved to Conoco's corporate headquarters in the U.S. and assumed responsibility for operations in Africa and the Middle East. That led to his transfer to Conoco in London, where he held the senior management position for operations in the North Sea.

Following that very demanding but successful assignment, he was transferred back to Canada and ultimately assumed the position of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas. Unfortunately, the company's success attracted a federal politically supported takeover by Dome Petroleum that ended Gerry's time with that progressive organization. Fortunately, it was not a major setback in Gerry's career, as he went on to lead Bow Valley Industries before being recruited to head up TransCanada Pipelines as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. He led that company until his retirement through a dynamic period involving a major expansion in Canada, as well as introducing it to very successful pipeline construction and ownership in foreign countries.

Throughout his lifetime, Gerry maintained a strong support for education, which is demonstrated by the scholastic achievements of his own family, and his funding of perennial scholarships at Notre Dame College, University of Alberta, and University of Calgary. In recognition of his support, University of Alberta applied Gerry's name to a new building and University of Calgary's Faculty of Engineering applied his name to a new non-credit management program that Gerry helped develop.

At the time of World War II, Gerry was too young to serve in the military, but he served with the air force cadets for two years. Much later in life, he returned to serving his country as Honourary Lieutenant Colonel and then Hon. Colonel of the King's Own Calgary Regiment.

Throughout his life, Gerry maintained a high interest in international events and guided a number of companies making meaningful and successful international investments. But that did not mean that he overlooked his own country, because he was active in civic Canadian events, was an early president of the Calgary Booster Club, was part of the group that brought the Winter Olympics to Calgary, and, as Chairman of the Canadian branch of the World Petroleum Congress, was successful in bringing its annual global event to Calgary.

The twenty-five formal awards and presentations received by Gerry are too extensive to list. If he had been asked to identify two that he "prized" very strongly, we assume he may have picked the following: "Canadian Engineers Gold Medal – Canadian Council of Professional Engineers," and "The Order of Canada" presented by the Governor General of Canada. However, he greatly appreciated all the awards, medals, and accolades that he received, regardless of whether they emanated from the Queen of England or a local community organization.

An international petroleum industry leader, Gerry was proud of his heritage, family, profession, and the years of service he dedicated to the Canadian and global petroleum industry.

Editor's note: Gerry was a longtime member of the P.H.S. Until fairly recently, he was a regular attendee at our luncheons and was interested in a wide range of topics. He was very supportive of the Society and our efforts to preserve and communicate the history of the petroleum industry. In appreciation, I built on several "Green and Gold" University of Alberta yearbooks from the early 1950's for articles about Gerry during his formative years, playing hockey and becoming a petroleum engineer.

I should also note that involvement of the Maier family in the P.H.S. has had several other expressions. Gerry's brother, Len, was a P.H.S. Director and the creator of a great video compilation about a spectacular natural gas blowout in the High Arctic. Len's son, Rod, is a current P.H.S. Director.

MCCORMACK, William James. Born May 2, 1930 and passed away November 3, 2025. Bill was born in Chatham, NB. He had an auspicious beginning in life, weighing over fourteen pounds at birth. Bill grew up helping his father paint houses and churches. He also excelled in school. He attended St. Thomas University in Chatham and was active in theatre. After graduating from university, he accepted a teaching position in Alberta but, through a series of what he later considered to be fortunate events, Bill started his career in the oil industry and worked with Chevron Canada. Bill and his wife, Irene, lived in Saskatoon, SK, Regina, SK, and Edmonton, AB, before settling in Calgary, AB, in 1969.

As Bill's responsibilities at Chevron increased, he continued to study and became a geophysicist. He worked in exploration geophysics during the golden age of the oil industry and enjoyed evaluating scientific data related to oil and gas exploration. He immensely enjoyed working as part of Chevron's team and it was important to him to be a supportive and caring supervisor. Bill enjoyed being on the hiring committee and travelling to various Canadian universities to meet with candidates to join the geophysics department.

For work, Bill travelled to northern regions of Canada and to various cities in the United States, including San Francisco, San Diego, Houston, and Dallas. It may not be possible to fact-check the stories about his trips up north, including seeing a bear break into a trailer and open the fridge to steal milk, and having a cougar jump over him, but they made for fascinating dinner conversation. Bill retired from Chevron at 60 years old, after a career of 37 years, to spend more time with family.

Bill enjoyed reading, walking, fitness, cycling, tennis, skiing, gardening, cooking, and amateur carpentry. He had a way of making everyday activities like grocery shopping fun and his children all enjoyed sharing various activities with him. He especially enjoyed the annual Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysics weekend ski trip to Fairmont, BC. Irene and Bill were joined by their family on the trip for over 20 years. He was a scientist who loved reading, nature, community and above all else, family.

PHILLIPS, Ross Ferguson. Born October 21, 1926 and passed away on October 17, 2025. Ross was born at home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Growing up in the Great Depression profoundly shaped his outlook on life. His father lost his job in the early 1930s and had only occasional work after that. The family was poor, and Ross helped to support his parents from the beginning of his work career. He was called up for duty in the Second World War on the day the war in Europe ended.

Ross' work life got off to an early start. He graduated from Daniel McIntyre High School in Winnipeg at age 16 and immediately began work as an articling student at the Millar Macdonald accounting firm (because it paid and he and his family couldn't afford university). Ross moved to Millar Macdonald's Toronto office in late 1948 and was admitted as a CA in early 1949. In late 1949, he joined Millar Mac client company Traders Finance Corporation, a job that took him for over half of each year to Traders' 50 or so offices across Canada from Sydney, NS to Victoria, BC. An offer from a former Millar Mac colleague took him to Calgary in mid-1953 to work for Home Oil Company Limited. This move was doubly fortunate - the start of a great career in Calgary and, better yet, an opportunity to meet Robin (a dietician at the Colonel Belcher Hospital) on a blind date arranged by friends. Ross and Robin were married in 1956 and lived their entire married life in Calgary.

Ross had a very rewarding career. He rose through the ranks at Home Oil, retiring in 1980 as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Ross was also a corporate director for many years, beginning in the 1970s and continuing in earnest after his retirement from Home Oil. He served as a director of TransAlta Corporation, Air Canada, Canadian insurance companies owned by Nationale-Nederlanden Group (ING, now Intact), Deutsche Bank Canada, Oxford Properties, and several other smaller companies.

Giving back to the community, both with his time and financially, was very important to Ross. Over the years, he served the Calgary Foundation (director, board chair and Honorary Life Director), Calgary Stampede (director, audit committee chair and Honorary Life Director), Foothills Hospital (director), Anglican Diocese of Calgary (chair of finance and administration board), Honens International Piano Competition (director), University of Calgary (audit and investment committees), Canadian Petroleum Association (governor), Financial Executives Institute (Alberta President), and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (two committees). He was awarded the Fellow of the Chartered Accountants designation by the Alberta and Manitoba CA Institutes.

Ross was a man who was hardworking, humble, honest, always in good humor, genuinely interested in people and their stories, a diligent weekend tenderer of his yard and vegetable garden (followed by a sandwich and a baseball game on TV), and, according to his family, seemingly bereft of mechanical ability.

WARDLAW, Norman Claude. Born November 22, 1935 and passed away October 9, 2025. Norman was born in St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago and spent his early years playing outdoors in the garden chasing farm animals. He learned the handy use of a golf club to keep deadly jungle snakes out of the family bungalow. At the age of five he boarded a steamship to travel back to Manchester, UK, across the North Atlantic with his older brother and his parents. While back in the UK, he graduated from the University of Manchester (B.Sc. 1957) and the University of Glasgow (Ph.D. Geology 1961). After immigrating to Canada, he began his professional teaching career at the University of Saskatchewan, where he met Carole. They were married in New York City in 1964.

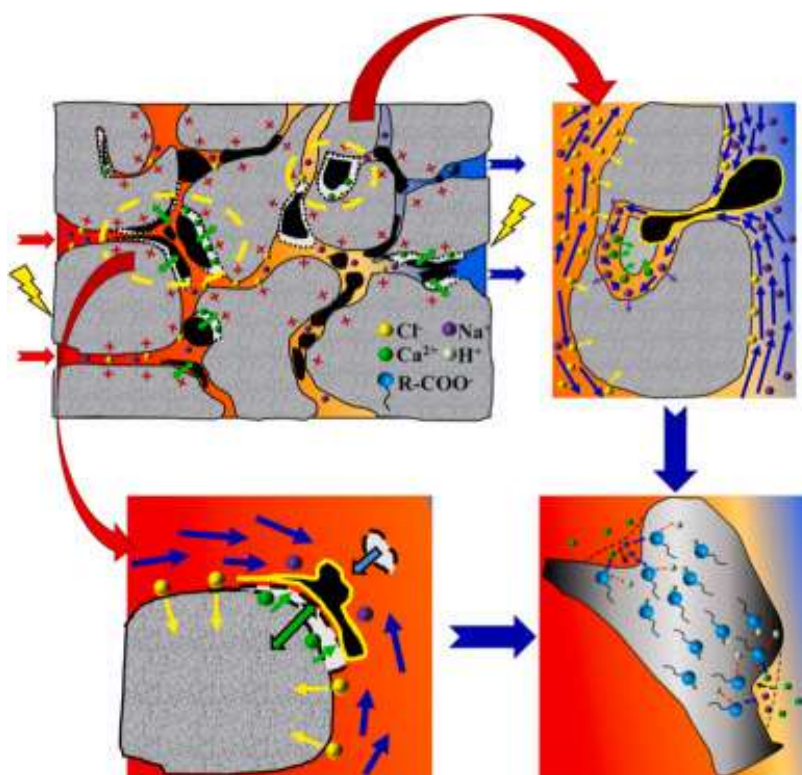
Norm accepted a position as an Associate Professor at the University of Calgary in 1971 and began a new chapter building friendships in the city. He was an enthusiastic educator who always had time for questions and particularly loved field trips to the mountains with his students. He was Department Head of Geology and Geophysics from 1979 to 1982 and retired in 1993 as Professor Emeritus. He was passionate about geology and had the ability to identify

complex geological issues both in laboratories and with field studies. He loved his time on Ellesmere Island and Northern Canada where he had many encounters with arctic foxes, polar bears, wolves, and grizzly bears. Much of his work is still being used today to optimize oil and gas recovery and the pursuit of valuable minerals.

Norm was a distinguished lecturer and had an illustrious career which led to numerous achievements including the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (CSPG) Link Award for a key presentation, the CSPG Medal of Merit for a critical paper, and a lifetime technical achievement award from the Society of Core Analysts. He was elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1998. Norman was a true Rock Star!

Norm was charming and charismatic with a special ability to truly connect with others. He was naturally inquisitive, always open to a healthy debate and listening to the opinion of others. He was generous with his time, always available to assist others whether it be academic questions or simply helping friends in need. He was also both very adventurous and artistic. He loved nature, animals, and the great outdoors. His favourite activities included cross-country skiing, hiking, mountaineering, and kayaking. All these activities he shared with his family, always leading to many adventures, stories, and fond memories. He also loved sketching and painting water colours of landscapes and animals at the zoo. Norman took up Djembe drumming late in life and participated in many drumming sessions, including a stadium performance!

Editor's Note: I had some interaction with Norm as we would sometimes sit together on the LRT commute to the northwest at the end of the working day. He had had some involvement with Shell's research group involving hydrocarbon recovery mechanisms during his retirement. He was always very friendly and humble.



Norm Wardlaw's playground: Pore structure and hydrocarbon recovery.