

## PRESERVING A PROUD LEGACY

The Petroleum History Society (PHS) focuses on a single industry. We believe that Canadian oil and gas history stands as much more than a respectable record. It is a legacy built by people whose accomplishments make us proud today.

Technology developed in Canada gave the worldwide petroleum industry improved methods for drilling, sour gas production, and sulphur recovery. Canadians redefined the industry's boundaries by opening new frontiers like polar exploration and oil sands extraction. Importantly, Canadians also exported a sense of responsibility for the resources that their technology mastered. Oil-producing nations around the globe are adopting conservation initiatives and environmental technologies that began in Alberta as early as the 1930s.

*Geological staff  
and model of field,  
Turner Valley  
(Glenbow Archives  
NA-4450-56)*



*Blowing gas to reduce pressure at Turner Valley  
(Glenbow Archives NA-8-445)*

## RECORDING FIRST-HAND RECOLLECTIONS

The Society originated as a group dedicated to preserving the oral history of the industry's pioneers, and this work continues. The first two oral history projects recorded 307 interviews. In 2010, the Society began its Oil Sands Oral History Project, in which researchers are using digital audio and visual media to collect interviews with pioneers in this sector. Supported by both the oil sands industry and the Alberta Government, subjects for this project have included such diverse pioneers as Tom Morimoto, who worked for the Bitumount project in Fort McMurray in 1937, and Bob McClements – Sun Oil's representative during the construction of the Great Canadian Oil Sands plant in 1965-1967, who later became the CEO and chair of Sun, then one of the world's largest integrated oil companies.

## JOINING FORCES

PHS collaborates with other groups working toward shared goals. For example, we worked with CKUA ACCESS Network radio on a series of radio programs plus a television show called "Roughnecks, Wildcats and Doodlebugs" about the industry's early history. Rebroadcast by popular demand, the radio series was the network's most successful ever. We also sponsored a series of radio docudramas along with audio teaching materials for use in schools. The Society also has a scholarship at the University of Calgary to support graduate research into petroleum history in Canada.

## A QUARTER CENTURY OF PROGRESS

Since 1985, the Society has collected, archived and communicated the story of this industry's past. Members receive regular updates on through our newsletter, *Archives*, and at luncheons and an annual meeting. These have featured such engaging speakers as Grant McEwan, Arne Nielsen, Don Axford, John Ballem, Jim Gray, James H. Gray and Dick Haskayne.

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REMEMBER

Oilmen no longer construct drill sites with pick and shovel, grind through dolomite from rickety wooden derricks, or drill wildcats with little more than faith in geology and God, at gamblers' odds. But let's not forget the people who did. Because if they hadn't, Sarnia would not have developed as one of North America's large refining and petrochemical centres. Calgary would not be headquarters for nearly half of the world's publically-traded oil companies. Edmonton would not be western Canada's refining centre. There would be no petrochemical plants in Red Deer. Fort St. John and Estevan would not be important oil and gas production centres. Fort McMurray would not be the global centre for ultra-heavy oil production and technology. There would not be a giant network of pipelines stretching from Western Canada to North America's great petroleum markets. Nor, perhaps, would Canada stand today as one of the world's leading industrial nations.

*Okalta well,  
night scene,  
1930s  
(Glenbow Archives  
NB-16-601)*



*Dog team and  
prefabricated hut, Norman Wells, NWT  
(Glenbow Archives NA-4450-46)*



## PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY

Application for Membership or Membership Renewal

|  |   |
|--|---|
| New Member?  | Renewing Member?  |
| Individual members indicate your membership type:  |   |
|  | Individual Member \$30/year   |
|  | Sustaining Individual Member \$30 plus donation of \$30 or more /year |
| Corporate or Institutional members (*) indicate your membership type:                        |   |
|  | Institutional Member \$100/year                                       |
|  | Sustaining Institutional Member more than \$100/year                  |
| <b>Multiple year renewals are welcomed.</b>  |   |
| Name:  |   |
| (If a corporation or institution, please give company name, plus name of representative.)    |   |
| Address:   |   |
| City:  |   |
| Postal Code:   |   |
| Email/s:   |   |
| Business phone:  |   |
| Home phone:  |   |
| Individual Members - please indicate your company or institutional affiliation (if desired): |   |
| Date:  |   |
| Signature:   |   |

Please send with cheque or money order (for your membership type plus any donation) payable to *Petroleum History Society* to:

Petroleum History Society  
c/o Micky Gulless, Treasurer  
1638 Broadview Rd NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 3H1

\* All employees of a Corporate or Institutional member are eligible for Member rates at PHS functions. *Archives* newsletter is available for distribution throughout the corporation or institution. And your company will be doing more to help preserve our colourful past, for which the Society is very grateful.

**Note: PHS memberships are annual, with renewals due each January.** For NEW members joining after June 30, first year membership will be extended to the end of the following year. See your address label on the PHS *Archives* newsletter for your expiry date.

Application and online payment available at:

**[www.petroleumhistory.ca](http://www.petroleumhistory.ca)**

For more info, email:  
[info@petroleumhistory.ca](mailto:info@petroleumhistory.ca)

**Thank you to the Glenbow Archives for providing the photographs.**

## THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY

*Preserving our history now,  
for the future*

Your participation in the Petroleum History Society will help preserve the past, including the stories of the many companies that have come and gone.

Your support can also help the generation succeeding us preserve the next chapter.

## THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY

*Telling Our Story*

The history of the Canadian petroleum industry is the story of Alberta's foremost industry. And the

Petroleum History Society is a group of volunteers dedicated to preserving that story and telling it.

*We invite you to join us.*



*Joseph Brown, Assistant Driller  
at Dingman #1 well head  
(Glenbow Archives NA-5262-39)*