



**PETROLEUM  
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SOCIETY**

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*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*May 2008; Volume XIX, Number 4*

**P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, June 4, 2008**

**The First Oil Well in Western Canada – Waterton 1902**  
by Dr. Johan F. Dormaar and Robert A. (Rob) Watt

The small but historically significant Waterton Oil Field, located in what is now Waterton National Park in southwesternmost Alberta, has been the subject of many investigations over the years following its discovery in 1902. Regardless of all the tales about this first oil well in Western Canada, the real story told by the authors does not need any help from mythmakers. John and Bob will describe the roles of some of the main players, such as George Mercer Dawson, Kootenai Brown, Alan Poyntz and John Lineham. They will also show that this story really runs from 1874 to about 1936. Much was learned at Waterton. Later discoveries at Turner Valley (1914, 1924, 1936) and Leduc (1947) built on this early work.

***Robert Watt** has a diploma in Resource Management and a B.Sc. in Environmental Studies (Geography). Robert has done everything relating to his job as Park Warden of Waterton Lakes National Park and is very knowledgeable about the environmental and land use history of the Park. **John Dormaar** started with a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture, but later specialized in soil organic chemistry related to Range Management at the Agricultural Research Centre, Lethbridge. He is now retired and attempting to solidify his tacit landscape knowledge acquired over the years. Together they authored in 2007 the well illustrated, 97 page volume “Oil City – Black Gold in Waterton Park”, published by the Lethbridge Historical Society. Copies will be available for purchase.*

**TIME:** 12 noon, Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

**PLACE:** Fairmont Palliser Hotel, (133 - 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.) – Corral Room (check marquee)

**COST:** Members \$30.00 and Guests \$35.00 (most welcome) (cash or cheque only)

**R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend to: Clint Tippett, 691-4274 or  
clinton.tippett@shell.com by noon Monday, June 2**

Individuals who indicate that they will be attending but do not materialize will be considered “no shows” and **will be invoiced for the cost of the luncheon**. Individuals who do not R.S.V.P. cannot be assured of seating. We apologize for the need to implement these policies but we are finding it necessary to optimize both the financial and operational aspects of our luncheon program. Thanks.