

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

June 2024; Volume XXXV, Number 3

P.H.S. Luncheon – Wednesday, June 12th, 2024

COEXISTENCE: The Evolution of Integrated Land Management in Alberta

By Robert (Bob) Bott

This talk will provide a brief overview of how Alberta has addressed the inevitable conflict between renewable and non-renewable land uses. By definition, “one use” is potentially permanent, while the other is temporary, although the time span can extend over many decades. In Western Canada, the fact that most mineral rights are owned by the Crown gives the government a vested interest in early and economical extraction of the non-renewable resources, which has often overshadowed the interests other land users.

Since 1963, Alberta’s surface rights and reclamation legislation has attempted to resolve conflicts between landowners and extractive industries (oil and gas, coal, gravel, and other mining) in the settled, mainly agricultural lands known as the White Area. The Green Area, 58 per cent of Alberta, is mostly Crown land reserved for development of both non-renewable and renewable resources. The Lougheed government began to address the conflicts on public lands in 1977 with the *Eastern Slopes Policy*, which called for “integrated resource planning” reflecting multiple uses and values.

The rapid expansion of the oil sands industry from 1997 to 2014 brought new challenges. The impacts were both intensive in the mining area and extensive in the in-situ areas. Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries (Al-Pac), whose forest management area overlapped the main oil sands area, led an effort to integrate its timber rights with the rights of the oil sands developers.

Time: 12 noon, Wednesday, June 12th, 2024

Place: Calgary Petroleum Club
319 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary (Check marquee for room)
Dress – business casual.

Cost: P.H.S. Members and Student Members \$40 and 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: Ross Hicks via his email
ross_hicks@yahoo.com (note the underscore: ross_hicks)

The deadline for registration is Monday, June 10th at noon.

**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.

Robert (Bob) Bott is a Calgary-based writer, editor, and communications consultant specializing in energy, forestry, and the environment. He is a 30-year member of the P.H.S., and he recently completed a corporate history of Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries (publication expected later this year). He began writing about Canadian energy in the 1970s as a journalist with United Press International and the *Calgary Herald*. He was managing editor of *Energy Magazine* in the early 1980s and edited energy-related articles for the first edition of *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. He wrote *Mileposts*, a history of the Interprovincial Pipeline, and *Evolution*, a brief history of the Canadian oil and gas industry. He is the author or co-author of four books on aspects of forestry and land management in Alberta. He was also a writer and consultant for the National Energy Board on two major regulatory reports and assisted revision of the *Landowner Handbook* for the Canada Energy Regulator.

**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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The Bull Wheel



Next P.H.S. Luncheon Meetings: The June 12th luncheon will be our final P.H.S. luncheon before the summer break. Please mark your calendars for the 2024 fall season Petroleum History Society luncheons: September 25th, October 30th, and November 27th at the Petroleum Club.

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 Tippett or Editor Bill McLellan at the email addresses indicated on page 2.

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.

Donations and endowments: Thank you to Barrel Oil Corp, Dan Claypool, Petra Dolata, Rick Green, David Hargrave, Dave Hutchinson, Tako Koning, Rod Maier, Clint Tippett, and Uldis Uptis 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.

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.

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

Election: The election of the 2024-2025 P.H.S. Executive and Board took place at our Annual Meeting on March 27th at the Petroleum Club. The results are as follows:

President	Clint Tippet
Vice President	Bill McLellan
Treasurer	Ian Kirkland
Secretary	Bradley Parkes
Past President	Micky Gulless
Director	Doug Cass
Director	David Finch
Director	Ross Hicks
Director	Deborah Jaremko
Director	Rod Maier
Director	John Snow
Auditors	David Hargrave and Tom Field

Obituary for Alexander Earle Gray

Alexander Earle Gray, "Earle" to all who knew him, passed away on April 2, 2024, at the age of 92. He was born on May 24, 1931, in Medicine Hat. Earle was predeceased by his loving wife, Joan. He is survived by his 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Earle's early years were spent in Sechelt, BC, where he grew up in a log home built by his father when Sechelt was a remote coastal village. He began his passion for writing at a young age and started his career as a cub reporter for the Vancouver Sun at the age of 17.

Throughout his illustrious career, Earle made significant contributions as an author, writer, entrepreneur, humanist, and adventurer. He authored 7 published histories and 6 books about the Canadian petroleum industry. Earle's remarkable achievements in the field of petroleum industry history earned him a Lifetime Achievement Award from both the Petroleum History Society of Canada and the U.S. Petroleum History Institute.

Alexander Earle Gray will be remembered as a giant of a man whose significant contributions in recording the history of the Canadian petroleum industry, will be cherished for years to come. May he rest in peace.

For the full obituary, <https://www.lakelandfuneralcentre.com/obituary/Alexander-Gray>

Summary of May 1st, 2024 P.H.S. Luncheon Presentation

CANADA'S EAST COAST OFFSHORE: 70 YEARS OF OIL & GAS HISTORY

Presented by: Dr. Brad Hayes, Petrel Robertson Consulting Ltd.

Sedimentary basins in Canada's east coast offshore are rich oil and gas hunting grounds; a long history of exploration and development stretches back to the earliest seismic refraction surveys in the 1950s, and even earlier if one considers early oil wells on the western coast of Newfoundland.

While exploration has been wide-ranging, production today comes only from the oil-prone Jeanne d'Arc Basin on the Grand Banks, more than 300 km east of St. John's. The Hibernia discovery in 1979 took 18 years to put on stream, and was followed by major developments at White Rose, Terra Nova and Hebron. Oil discoveries a little further offshore in the Flemish Pass Basin await final investment development decisions over the next few years.

Exploration on the Labrador Shelf north of the Grand Banks and the Scotian Shelf to the south proved those areas to be gas-prone. Gas discoveries near Sable Island on the Scotian Shelf were developed in the 1990s, but were depleted by 2018 after more than 2 TCF of gas was delivered. The more remote and physically challenging Labrador Shelf gas discoveries of the 1970s and 80s have not been developed, but tremendous potential remains if a business case can be made for development.

Political and regulatory issues will determine the future of oil and gas in the Eastern Canada offshore. In addition to oil, natural gas potential is enormous and well-positioned for LNG to serve the ravenous European market, but will require federal as well as provincial support to move ahead.

Biography of Speaker: BRAD J. HAYES, Ph.D., P.Geo.

Brad Hayes is President of Petrel Robertson Consulting Ltd., a geoscience and engineering consulting firm advising clients working in oil and gas, helium and lithium exploration, carbon capture and storage, geothermal energy and water resource management.

Brad holds a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Alberta and has 40 years of diverse experience applying subsurface geoscience in resource industries. He is a Past-President of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, a member of the Energy Resources Technical Advisory Committee for Geoscience BC, Outreach Director for the Canadian Society for Evolving Energy and an Adjunct Professor in the University of Alberta Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

Brad led PRCL in more than 20 years of technical support for East Coast oil and gas exploration and development ventures, including G&G analysis at Hibernia for Canada Hibernia Holding Corporation.

**THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA and THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY
A PARTNERSHIP OF DISCOVERY**

Part 2

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**

In 1873, the GSC drilled wells in what is now Manitoba to obtain information on ground water supplies, coal, and other mineral deposits along the proposed route of what was to become the Canadian Pacific Railway line westward to Vancouver.

The very first well in Western Canada exploring specifically for oil was drilled in Manitoba in April 1877, just 7 years after Manitoba became a Province. GSC geologists and several local individuals had reported petroliferous shales along the Vermilion River, describing them as having a greasy, cheese-like texture and a strong bituminous odor. W. R. Baker, superintendent of the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway (which later became part of the CPR), was sufficiently interested in this discovery that he founded the Manitoba Oil Company.

The first well was drilled about 20 kilometres southwest of Dauphin to a depth of 89 metres before mechanical difficulties forced its abandonment. The company drilled several additional wells in the area. The second of these wells drilled 226 metres, reaching Devonian formations. The wells found no oil, but sufficient gas was encountered to provide kitchen fuel to nearby farmsteads for many years.

During the summer seasons of 1882 and 1884, Dr. Robert Bell of the Geological Survey of Canada continued his explorations in areas west of Manitoba. He investigated the oil sands along the Athabasca River that had been reported to him by letter in 1873 from a Reverend Father Petitot, who travelled extensively in the region. Bell reported that along the banks of the Athabasca River that reach heights of over 200 feet (61 metres)

“over an area of at least 25 leagues (approx. 121 km), these schistose hills exude asphalt from top to bottom. The rocks are all black with it and the banks are formed by this bituminous mass, mixed with sand and hardened by time. This liquid mineral fills the higher marshes and would be a rich mine to work.”

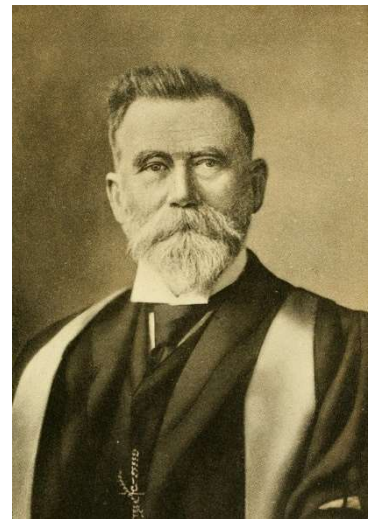


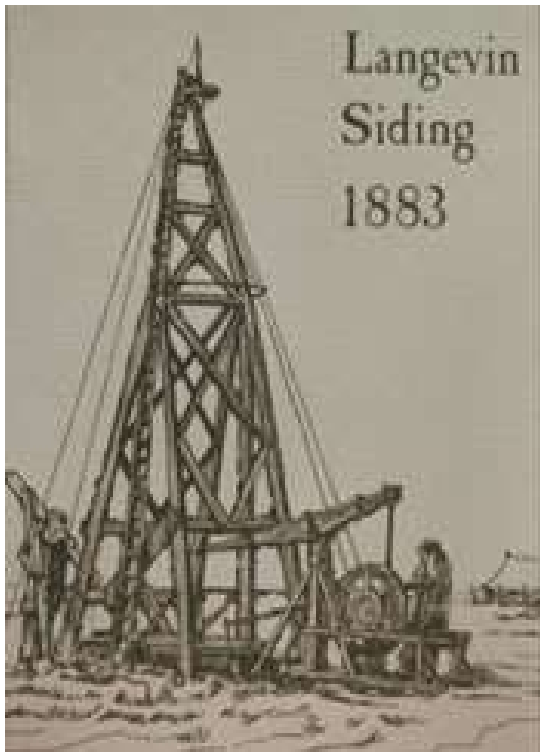
Photo Source: Wikipedia

Bell proposed that, independent of the construction of a railroad into the Athabasca area,

“an outlet for the oil to foreign markets might be found by conveying it by steamers.... From the Athabasca River to the eastern extremity of the lake of the same name, and thence by a pipe to Churchill Harbor on Hudson Bay.”

A very progressive idea! Unfortunately, getting the oil separated from the sand has proven to be much more difficult and expensive than Bell could ever have imagined.

The Canadian Pacific Railway was being built across the prairies at this time and had reached Calgary in 1883. The steam locomotives of the day required considerable volumes of water.



Consequently, the CPR was engaged in drilling water wells along its right-of-way. Such a well being drilled for water at Langevin Station, Alberta (now called Alderson) failed to find a worthwhile supply of water but did produce a large flow of natural gas from a depth of 1,155 feet (352 metres). The gas ignited almost immediately, destroying the drilling rig. A second well was drilled in only 8 feet (2.4 metres) from the first in 1884, using gas from the first well to fire the boiler. This second well produced an estimated 50,000 cubic feet (1,416 cubic metres) of gas per day from a sand at a depth of 1,151 feet (351 metres). Although the discovery was of no immediate importance to the railway, it was the first significant natural gas find in Western Canada and encouraged the search for an economic domestic fuel for towns and cities.

(See Author's Note at the end of this article (page 11) for a link to more information)

Photo from: *Alberta's First Natural Gas Discovery*, a booklet published in 1981 by PanCanadian Petroleum.

A few years later, G. M. Dawson collected the data on several of these early wells in a paper entitled "On Certain Borings in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories". In the section on the Langevin wells, he prophetically noted:

"They have demonstrated the very important fact that a large supply of natural combustible gas exists in the district." and "it is probable that a similar supply will be met over a great area of this part of the Northwest, and that it may become in the near future a factor of economic importance."

Also in 1884, Dawson and R. G. McConnell of the Geological Survey described the anticline on Sheep Creek in Alberta that was later to be found to contain the Turner Valley oilfield. While they mapped the structure and prepared a detailed cross-section, they made no mention of the oil and gas seepages which were later to be found in the area. First recorded by cattleman John Ware in 1888, these seepages led to William Herron's actions that eventually culminated in the first petroleum discovery of real consequence in Western Canada. It was not until the Dingman #1 discovery well in 1913 that the GSC sent Dr. D. B. Dowling and S. E. Slipper to do further work in this area.

The scientific investigation of Western Canada in 1884 was taking place as a political and military drama was being enacted – the second, but this time unsuccessful, Metis rebellion in western Canada, led by Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont.

In 1885, the Survey published Dawson and McConnell's "Report on the Region in the Vicinity of the Bow and Belly Rivers, NWT". This was the first regional report on a part of Western Canada and is historically significant in that it marks the transition period from long traverses to regional surveys as a policy of the Survey. These regional surveys would become, in later years, the

invaluable reference tools of petroleum geologists as they followed Survey geologists into new areas for hydrocarbon exploration.

In 1890, R. G. McConnell carried out a geological reconnaissance of the Athabasca and Peace River areas, describing the immense deposits of oil sand exposed downstream from Fort McMurray for some 50 miles (80.5 km). McConnell is believed to have made the first recorded comments on practical uses for these oil sands.

“Among the uses to which it is adapted, may be mentioned roofing, paving, insulating electrical wires, and it might also be mixed with the lignite which occurs in the neighbourhood, and pressed into briquettes for fuel.”

Like Bell and Dawson, McConnell believed the oil in the oil sands originated from the underlying Devonian limestones. In 1893, McConnell joined Dawson in recommending that the Dominion Government undertake a drilling program to discover the liquid oil associated with the oil sands. The recommendation was approved and \$7,000 was voted for the venture. The program, directed by the Geological Survey, commenced in August of 1893, but was abandoned without success the next year.



In 1897, the rig that was used on the aborted exploration project was moved to Pelican Portage, located about 128 km southwest of today's Fort McMurray. It was probably like this drill rig at Victoria, Alberta in 1898.

Photo Source: Glenbow Archives, NA-302-11

The well drilled at this location encountered only a small amount of heavy liquid oil, but a tremendous volume of natural gas. Engineers and rig hands could not cope with the flows of gas and the well was temporarily abandoned.

In 1898, work resumed, but soon the considerable flow of gas to the surface forced the permanent abandonment of the project. The flow was calculated at 8.5 million cubic feet per day and blew unabated for 21 years! The flow was finally halted in 1918 when Survey geologist S.E. Slipper and oilman C. W. Dingman succeeded in killing the well.

While the Geological Survey was busy defining the oil sands, oil entrepreneurs were busy staking oil claims in the Twin Butte area east of Pincer Creek, creating an oil boom. The excitement generated reached Ottawa and Dr. Alfred Selwyn, Director of the Survey, travelled to investigate. Selwyn reported that there were few facts to support the optimism being generated. In fact, it was not until 1948 that the dreams of riches were realized, with Gulf Oil's discovery of the Pincer Creek gas field.

By the year 1900, Officers of the Geological Survey had outlined the basic geological framework of the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin and proved the existence of vast reserves of oil sand

along the Athabasca River. Gas had been discovered in considerable volume and it seemed probable that commercial pools of petroleum would soon be found. Private citizens and companies had taken up the search in the last 10 years of the 19th Century and had followed Survey geologists into every petroliferous area these scientists reported. Drilling wells on the prairies, in the foothills, and in the mountains.

Officers of the Geological Survey continued to take keen interest in the activities of these individuals and companies, and assisted the operators in numerous ways, not the least of which was by continuing to map new areas in the West where petroleum and natural gas could occur. Today we owe these dedicated scientists a debt for preserving, in their reports, detailed records of the earliest drilling and production activities.

While scientists at the Survey continued doggedly to explore and map our vast country, ever watchful for signs of oil and natural gas as they moved into northerly and remote regions, for most of the 20th Century, the Canadian petroleum industry progressed haltingly, with enthusiasm and success alternately ebbing and flowing:

- In 1902, the first oil produced in Alberta came from a well drilled on Cameron Brook in the Waterton area;
- In 1909, former Geological Survey geologist Eugene Coste made a significant natural gas discovery near Bow Island, Alberta which was named "Old Glory" by area settlers;
- In 1913, the Dingman #1 well came in with a roar, producing 4 million cubic feet of gas per day, and launching the first of the three Turner Valley oil booms;



Photo of Dingman #1 and #2, Turner Valley
(Source: Provincial Archives Alberta, P1304)

- In 1923, the Royalite #4 well at Turner Valley ushered in the field's second oil boom; and
- In June of 1936, Turner Valley Royalties #1 well flowed 850 barrels of oil per day and launched the Turner Valley field on its third and biggest boom of its long history.

Finally, the discovery of oil by Imperial Oil at Leduc in 1947 marked the end of the adolescence of Canada's petroleum industry. We had arrived!

Interestingly, in 1886, J. B. Tyrrell of the Geological Survey (after whom the Royal Museum of Paleontology at Drumheller is named), while mapping the rocks along the North Saskatchewan River from Rocky Mountain House to Edmonton, noted, but did not recognize, the significance of the “drape” of younger sedimentary rocks over the Leduc reef.



Photo Source: Wikipedia

Following the Leduc discovery, the rapid expansion of the industry, centered largely in Alberta, resulted in an unprecedented demand for geological information about this energy-rich region.

To meet this demand, the Geological Survey of Canada opened an office in Calgary in 1950. This was replaced in 1967 with a facility – the Institute of Sedimentary and Petroleum Geology – designed expressly to meet the specialized research requirements of the Survey and the petroleum industry.

In the years since its establishment, the Institute has become a key source of information to the petroleum industry on the geology, geophysics, geochemistry, and resources of western and northern Canada.

The Institute’s programs involve multidisciplinary investigations of oil and natural gas in the sedimentary basins of western and northern Canada. These studies help scientists working in the petroleum industry to assess the country’s undiscovered petroleum potential. They also generate new ideas and foster learned debate on the origin and occurrence of oil and gas deposits, and to generate important information that assists in the discovery and development of these deposits.

In September 1992 (at the time of the original presentation of this paper) the Institute was involved in numerous projects of direct interest and value to Canada’s petroleum industry, including:

- a computer-based petroleum resource assessment system providing estimates of potential oil and natural gas reserves in the various sedimentary basins in Canada,
- a study into the nature, origin, and hydrocarbon prospects of a geological area called the Peace River Arch in northwestern Alberta and adjacent British Columbia, and
- a joint petroleum industry - GSC venture to complete the coverage of aeromagnetic data over the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin.

In 1992, the Institute’s organic geochemical laboratory was unique in Canada, conducting basin-wide studies of international renown. The Institute’s Core and Sample Repository houses drill cores, well cuttings, rock samples geophysical logs and well history files from all exploration wells in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and from many other localities by special arrangements with the provinces. These materials form the raw data for geological and engineering studies performed by both the GSC and industry, as well as by universities and provincial government agencies.

I hope that this presentation has shown clearly the often-fortuitous relationship between the Geological Survey of Canada and the Canadian oil and gas industry. You read of the intrepid

Survey geologists as they explored the vastness of Canada, often the first people of European descent to do so, just a little ahead, sometimes “moments” behind, equally intrepid industry geologists engaged in their insatiable search for oil and natural gas.

In the early years of petroleum exploration in a region, be it the prairies, the Arctic mainland or islands, or the offshore east or west coasts, the Geological Survey of Canada has led the way. Industry geologists, armed with Survey maps and reports were able to target specific areas of interest, thereby saving incalculable time and expense.

In the heyday of the petroleum industry in Canada, particularly during the late 1970's, many companies invested tremendous resources in their own research and reconnaissance exploration programs. Some built lavish research facilities and were able to undertake projects rivalling those of the Survey, particularly in the far north and offshore. To some extent, the industry took over the lead held by the GSC for so long.

In 1992, it was thought that those days were long gone! Even today, few oil companies can afford the luxury of their own research facilities staffed with expensive experts conducting far-ranging projects. As it was in the earliest years, the industry must once again rely extensively on the Geological Survey of Canada in their mutually beneficial **partnership of discovery**.

Author's Note: For additional information on Alberta's first natural gas well, follow this link to our P.H.S. website and the article “Alberta's First Natural Gas Discovery – 1883” by P.H.S. Past President Micky Gulless. <http://petroleumhistory.ca/history/firstgas.html>

PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM REPORT

By Clint Tippett

As previously outlined to our members, the Petroleum History Institute, based in Pennsylvania, held its annual symposium in Canmore from May 20-22, 2024. The event was chaired by P.H.S. member and P.H.I. Director Rick Green and by P.H.S. President Clint Tippett. Its theme was “Exploration in the Southern Canadian Rocky Mountain Foothills – From Drilling the Bump to Deeper Insights”.

On **Monday, May 20**, delegates were welcomed to the symposium at a reception held at Rick’s Canadian Rockies Earth Science Resource Centre in downtown Canmore. It was a beautiful evening in the CRESRC patio with the splendor of the Rundle Range, including the Three Sisters, as a backdrop. Snacks and refreshments were served. Rick spent a few minutes describing to those in attendance how CRESRC came to be and how his motivation has been both the preservation of technical material and artifacts from the petroleum industry and the communication of earth science knowledge to all that are interested. Delegates took the time to examine the numerous exhibits that the centre contains. As you will recall, Rick and CRESRC are previous P.H.S. award winners. A total of just over 50 people had registered for the symposium or parts thereof.



Rick Green provides an overview of his Canadian Rockies Earth Science Resource Centre to symposium participants.

The symposium itself took place on **Tuesday, May 21**. A full day of presentations were made in the conference room at the Chateau Canmore which was the designated host for symposium

accommodations, and presentations. Meals served in the attached Chez Francois restaurant. A silent auction with numerous petroleum industry-related items was an added feature.



During a break in the presentations, delegates examined items that were part of the silent auction while discussing the posters that were displayed.

As might be expected, the oral slate was dominated by U.S.-related talks (7) with three Canadian and one international in nature (Romania). The posters were evenly split between U.S. and Canada – two each.

Of interest from a Canadian petroleum industry point of view were:

- P.H.S. Director David Finch's talk on "Answers to Fantastic "Wonder Well" Tales" - concerning the Turner Valley Royalite #4 discovery of 1924.
- P.H.S. Member Rick Green's talk on "Exploration for Natural Gas in the Monkman Area of NE British Columbia – A Talisman Perspective".
- P.H.S. President Clint Tippett's talk on "The Jumping Pound Discovery of 1944".
- Allan Phillips's poster on "Southwestern Ontario: A Glimpse at the Birthplace of the North American Oil Industry".
- P.H.S. Member Tako Koning's poster on "Texaco-Shell et al. Blue H-28: A World Record-Setting Deepwater Exploration Well Drilled in 1979 in the Orphan Basin, Newfoundland".

Clint Tippett also provided a table display of books related to the oil sands with the title “War of the Words: Polarized Scholarship and the Canadian Oil Sands”. The books were grouped into pro-oil sands books, basic information and research, and anti-oil sands books. Clint also brought along a collection of belt buckles connected to Canadian oil and gas companies and related activities under the banner “Swag – Working-level Currencies in the Oil Patch” making the point that informal exchanges of items like belt buckles and ball caps emblazoned with corporate logos play non-insignificant roles in building interpersonal and interorganizational ties in our industry.

Besides those mentioned above, P.H.S. members who participated in the symposium session included Director Doug Cass, Treasurer Ian Kirkland, Member Al Bessel and Member Dustin Brodner.

The day concluded with an awards banquet at which a number of individuals were recognized for their accomplishments and contributions. As is traditional, recipients were chosen from the host region, in this case Calgary.

“The Colonel Edwin L. Drake Legendary Oilman Award” went to three well-known and well-deserving Calgary-based individuals, specifically:

- James (Jim) Kenneth Gray best known for his roles with Canadian Hunter.
- Mike Rose of Tourmaline Oil Corp.
- P.H.S. Member Ian MacGregor, formerly of Northwest Refining.

“The Samuel T. Pees Keeper of the Flame Award” was presented to David Finch for his numerous publications related to the Canadian petroleum industry and his involvement in organizations like the P.H.S. and the Turner Valley Oilfield Society that are dedicated to preservation and communication related to our industry.

“The William R. Brice Education Award” was presented to Annette Milbradt for her many years of spearheading the annual Calgary area “Earth Science for Society” event that draws in people from many walks of life to learn about the way that the earth works.

Wednesday, May 22 was dedicated to a bus-based field trip.

The trip started in Canmore and first stopped at the Turner Valley Gas Plant where a pair of tours was conducted by very knowledgeable Alberta Culture guides including P.H.S. member Dustin Brodner. The rain could not dampen enthusiasm as participants were shown how the natural gas from the Turner Valley Field was processed into a wide range of useable products.



After assembling the group in the old laboratory building, Alberta Culture Turner Valley Gas Plant tour guides Darrell Bertsch and Dustin Brodner (in his famous vest) describe the tours that are about to begin along with giving a related safety briefing. Numerous photos and other documents were available for examination.

The trip then traversed the Foothills over to the Museum of Making, west of Cochrane. This excellent facility has been constructed under the guidance of Ian MacGregor and features an exceptional range of equipment and displays. In the outside yard is some historical petroleum industry equipment that have been assembled, in part, from a treasure trove in nearby Montana. Again, the rain was an impediment to their examination, but a number of participants found refuge in a historical doghouse.

The trip then returned to Canmore where some symposium delegates gathered for a farewell dinner at the Grizzly Paw restaurant before bidding adieu until next year – rumored to be in Midland, Texas.