

# ARCHIVES

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*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*October 2025; Volume XXXVI, Number 4*

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**P.H.S. Luncheon – Tuesday, October 28, 2025**

**Riding the Trails of Southern Alberta Museums,  
Heritage and Historic Sites**

***By: IRENE KERR: Heritage Advocate, Graphic Designer and former Museum  
of the Highwood Director/Curator***

This month we are very pleased to welcome Irene Kerr as our luncheon speaker. Irene's extensive experiences in historical preservation, display and communication are very relevant to both the Petroleum History Society and the Turner Valley Oilfield Society. Both organizations were founded with the aspiration of leading the construction of a petroleum-related interpretive facility in Turner Valley – which unfortunately did not come to pass. Other industry- and historically oriented establishments in Alberta such as the ERCB's Calgary Energeum, the Cochrane Ranche and the Canadian Energy Museum have often struggled and sometimes died for a multitude of reasons. Others have experience sustained success. Irene brings her knowledge and insights associated with organizations that have "made it" to discussions of how we can achieve positive results in these arenas, how we can interest the public in our messages and how we can gain the necessary financial and regulatory supports needed to make our presence and objectives known to wider audiences. We strongly encourage you to attend and support our society's luncheon program and its activities.

**Please see page 2 and 3 for talk abstract and speaker's biography.**

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| Time:  | 12 noon, Tuesday, October 28, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Place: | Calgary Petroleum Club<br>319 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary (Please check the marquee for the room)<br>Dress – business casual.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Cost:  | P.H.S. Members and Student Members \$40; Guests \$45 (most welcome).<br>Only cash or cheque at the door. Payment can be made in advance by Interac or<br>PayPal transfer to <a href="mailto:treasurer@petroleumhistory.ca">treasurer@petroleumhistory.ca</a> Please advise payment<br>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](mailto:treasurer@petroleumhistory.ca)

**The deadline for registration is Monday, October 27 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.

### **October 28, 2025 – Speaker Abstract and Biography**

Irene is a third generation Calgarian. She moved to High River with her young family in 1991. The following year she began working as a graphic designer for exhibits, marketing and publications at the Glenbow Museum. What started out as a 3-month ‘temporary’ position as a graphic designer led her down an unexpected trail to a 34-year career in the Alberta Heritage field. She has worked in a large museum and in a medium-small museum. She has found herself as a freelance contractor, as a partner in an exhibit design company and now as a consultant.

Along the way she has experienced many major challenges including massive layoffs and cultural shifts, navigating the non-profit world, boards, politics, endless fundraising, grant writing and the many challenges and general evolution of museum and heritage sites in Alberta.

Irene was honoured to serve as the design coordinator for the ground-breaking exhibit: “*Niitsitapiissinni: Our Way of Life*”, at the Blackfoot Gallery that opened in 2001. In 2004, she co-founded an exhibit design company that project-managed the storyline, design and production of the exhibits at the new Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park (BCHP). Other projects included The Military Museums of Calgary, The Calgary Firefighters Museum, Galt Historic Railway Park and The Bar U Ranch National Historic Site as well as creating additional exhibits for Blackfoot Crossing.

Irene was the Director/Curator of the Museum of the Highwood in High River from January 2008 until retiring in December 2024. As she recalls, she managed the museum through a fire, floods and pestilence. She is now consulting and working on historical (of course) projects and has remained involved with BCHP.

Irene has been a member of several Boards including the Alberta Museums Association and the Historical Society of Alberta. She recently joined the Chinook Country Historical Society as Vice-President and is also a member of the Southern Alberta Pioneers, The Alberta Museums Association and The Canadian Museums Association. In November 2022 she was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for her service to Alberta museums.

Despite all the unexpected twists and turns in the trail, Irene remains passionate about Southern Alberta's fascinating history and continues to advocate for the Heritage Industry. As always, it is all about the stories.

Irene is looking forward to sharing many of them with the Petroleum History Society, including her long and eventful association with the Little Chicago/Royalties cairn project to the north of Longview, Alberta. That historical initiative, a part of the colourful history of the Turner Valley region, was featured in the December 2004 and October 2005 issues of *Archives* as well as being showcased in a photo essay under "and more petroleum history" on the P.H.S website. Project advocate Helen Goldenberg spoke to the P.H.S. at a luncheon on October 28, 2004, exactly twenty-one years ago.



The top of the cairn at Little Chicago, just west of Highway 22, north of Longview, Alberta. The town was also called Royalties after the well that in 1936 discovered genuine crude oil on the west flank of the Turner Valley structure. The small town on this site flourished for many years but was eventually abandoned when oilfield activity waned and people left for jobs elsewhere. In 2004, people who were born at raised here got together and collected the funds for this monument. Irene has been involved in its maintenance since then.

## The Bull Wheel



**Next P.H.S. Luncheon Meetings:** The next scheduled luncheon after the Tuesday, October 28 event will be on Wednesday, November 26.

**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.

**Payment:** for memberships can be made by Interac or Paypal transfers, 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 be aware that 2025 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Faster, Better, Cheaper.** No – this is not the new Olympic slogan. It is what seems to be the current Federal Government plan to fast track major projects to bring a new age of prosperity to Canada. But back to reality. I ran across a list that was “*Attachment B: Collection of potential conditions – Northern Gateway Pipelines Inc. (Northern Gateway) – Enbridge Northern Gateway Project – Hearing Order OH-4-2011*”. To cut to the chase, this document listed 199 possible conditions for the project. As we all know “the devil is in the details” so the challenge for those who want to move forward faster is to work their way through such lists, identifying things that can be dispensed with and explaining why they can be sidestepped. Just randomly opening the document one sees “112-113 - Complementary Leak Detection”, “114-117 - Heritage Resources” and “118 - Landowner Consultation” and whether they deal with infrastructure, the oil pipeline, the condensate pipeline, the Kitimat terminal or the project overall.

**Exaggerations.** You'd have to wonder if someone is poking fun at President Trump's Great Big Beautiful Bill when you see a September 2, 2025 announcement from Enbridge regarding a new natural gas transmission project in the Northeast U.S. that they are funding – called the Algonquin Reliable Affordable Resilient Enhancement Project. A close second for over-the-top statements came from Athabasca Oil on July 24, 2025 whose headline was "Athabasca Oil Announces 2025 Second Quarter Results Highlighted by Strong Operational Results, Continued Share Buybacks and a Pristine Financial Position". Pristine? Hard to visualize what that even means for a balance sheet.

**Still Paying after all these Years.** A June 25, 2025 look at BP, triggered by speculation that it might be a takeover target (by Shell?), contained a revealing bit of information about the long-term financial impacts of the Macondo – Deepwater Horizon disaster of 2010. In the tabulation of BP debt is the comment that "*BP still owes \$8 billion from the spill, part of a \$70 billion total cost*". Exhaustive investigations of the causes of the blowout led to a number of reports (available on-line) that highlighted the way in which a series of technical failures and miscalculations caused the catastrophic result. If you haven't seen the Deepwater Horizon movie, you should do so. It is a reasonably good reflection of what happened.

**So Much for Canadian Oil Tycoons.** An article in the April 4, 2025 issue of the Calgary Herald contained a look at Forbes' Billionaires List with an extraction of its Canadian players. The only name with a recognizable oilpatch connection is Murray Edwards with a net worth of US\$2.8 billion. That puts him at number 1305 on the global list with 35 non-oily Canadian or Canadian families higher than him. Although this isn't a metric of industry size or importance, it does suggest that oil wealth may not be what it used to be.

**Dome Petroleum Flashback.** A look through the material that the National Film Board has available on-line found the following listed: *Prisoners of Debt: Inside the Global Banking Crisis*. by Peter Raymond and Robert Collison. 1983. 57 minutes. "This feature documentary reveals how Bank of Montreal chairman William Mulholland dealt with his debt-laden customers Dome Petroleum and Mexico during the global debt crisis of 1982. Interviews with bankers and financial experts ...". Worth a look. The N.F.B. has a lot of good stuff available.

**Happy Birthday, Bob.** A belated greeting to Robert (Bob) Bott, one of our most dedicated volunteers – speaker, author and former P.H.S. Board Director, who celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday back on April 1, 2025. According to the announcement for the social gathering that took place: "*Bob was rehired at the Herald after he "ran away to the circus" in 1976, but that taste of freedom and adventure was too enticing. He quit for good in 1977 and began a freelance career that still continues: writing, editing, and consulting for magazines, newspapers, radio, television, books, and projects for institutional, corporate, and governmental clients. Independence allowed him to take extended "sabbaticals" and pursue interests in sports and adventures – horses; cross-country, backcountry, and telemark skiing; hiking, climbing, and canyoneering; and bicycling. Bicycle touring was the closest he came to the delight of experiencing new people and places that he had enjoyed while traveling with the Caravan. Over a 20-year period his bike tours touched 36 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and all 10 Canadian provinces. In 2000, he sold his car and co-founded the Calgary Alternative Transportation Co-operative, which provided carsharing until 2013. In 2002, he moved into his current residence in the Sunnyhill Housing Co-operative. Co-operatives replicate some of the communal experiences of the Caravan.*" Never lacking a good question and always a pleasure.

**The Sandman.** On July 17, 2025 it was announced that Canadian sand imports originating in the U.S. were being offered “a counter-tariff reprieve” by the Federal Government. This sand is used for fracking and was initially targeted for an economic hit in retaliation for other tariffs levied by the U.S. on Canadian exports. If this relief had not been provided, Canadian operators were facing an additional cost of about \$275 million per year. The high spec sand whose properties make it most suitable for fracking operations comes from Wisconsin and is transported into Canada by unit trains, as was previously noted in an earlier issue of *Archives*. The source of the sand is post-glacial aeolian deposits that formed by strong winds that reworked and remobilized post-glacial deposits along the southern margin of the continental ice sheet. The sand grains are well rounded and very consistent in grain size.

**Western Basin Snapshot.** While deep carbonate reservoirs such as the Turner Valley Formation, the Leduc and Nisku formations, the Swan Hills Formation and the Slave Point Formation were the lead and most significant producers in the Basin for many years, the shallower clastic reservoirs are finally coming into their own, at least in terms of industry activity. A recent compilation of well licences lists, in order of importance, the following target units: Montney, McMurray, Fahler, Clearwater, Waseca, Viking, Duvernay, Cardium, Spirit River and General Petroleum. Of these, only the Duvernay has any carbonate flavour. In terms of productivity, the BOE Report list for September 2025 for top Alberta oil and condensate includes 14 Montney wells and one Belly River well. The top condensate well was an ARC Resources test at Karr that flowed 1705 bbl/d. These would all be long reach horizontal wells with multistage fracs. How things have changed from the “good old days” of a few decades ago!

**California Dreamin’.** The condition of the petroleum industry in California continues to evolve with a battle between environmental aspirations, on one hand, and practical requirements, on the other. Increasingly stringent fuel requirements and operational regulations have forced industry to retrench, including the pending closure of several refineries. California has become increasingly dependent on imports of refined products, in contrast to their long history of petroleum production. Several recent developments would seem to be intended to reverse the tide – an increase in well licences in their heavy oil belt and a proposal to revive an offshore oil pipeline. Time will tell whether reality is setting in or if the state continues to become increasingly vulnerable to external forces.

**It's Better in the Bahamas.** One humorous side note has to do with refined products from Texas, destined for California. According to the U.S. Jones Act, such shipments must be done by ships built in the U.S. and crewed by U.S.-based individuals. Only 55 such ships exist and they are expensive to charter. So, the workaround was to transport the oil by a non-U.S.-flagged ship to the Bahamas and then on to California. Hope the crews get in some vacation.

**TransMountain Tanker Fun.** Of course, everyone (or mostly everyone) is pleased that the TransMountain Pipeline Expansion is up and running. There have been, however, a few flies in the ointment. As it stands, Aframax tankers (capacity up to 800,000 bbl.) can be loaded to only 70% of their capacity because the passageway out of Burrard Inlet contains a stretch that is too shallow for deeper drafts. Dredging is planned with completion by the end of 2026 or early 2027 to allow 100% filling of ship capacity. Another, perhaps unanticipated, impact has to do with the Second Narrows Bridge across the inlet. Canadian National unit grain trains transit the bridge to facilities on the North Shore, but this lift bridge must be raised to allow the tankers to pass beneath so some significant scheduling issues on both sides have arisen.



TMX has also been working to increase throughput and exports including investigation of crude oil additives that would decrease the viscosity of the liquid hydrocarbons and allow higher throughput. More pump stations are also a possibility. All of these initiatives mean that there may be less urgency to build another pipeline, be that a revived Keystone XL or a revived Northern Gateway. Indeed, all of these lines would be in competition with the Enbridge Mainline unless very significant additions are made to oil sands production. Perhaps this explains Enbridge's reluctance to spearhead a new version of Northern Gateway – they'd end up competing with themselves.

**One footnote.** Some of the Aframax ships out of Vancouver have headed to California, triggering comments about why we wanted to increase international shipments when we end up supplying the U.S anyways. But the reality is that some of these Aframax tankers are not suitable for Trans-Pacific routes and their cargos must be transferred to larger "supermax" tankers for that transit. So, are these volumes considered exports to the U.S. or exports to the Far East?

**Footnote 2.** I always thought that Aframax had something to do with Africa – because Suezmax and Panamax have to do with the size limitations related to their respective canals. But apparently not. The AFRA relates to a shipping industry convention, specifically the "Average Freight Rate Assessment" method for calculating shipping rates.

**New Calgary Building.** David Parker's column in the October 9, 2025 Calgary Herald featured a description of a new residential tower to be constructed in the near-downtown area of Bankview. It is being built by well-known Calgary entrepreneur Bob Brawn who is a long time P.H.S. member. The 12-storey complex will contain 132 suites and will be named "The Daisy" after Bob's mother.

The article contained an excellent overview of Bob's career, accomplishments and philanthropic endeavors including the restoration of massive Dinny the Dinosaur statue at the Calgary Zoo. Of particular note is the following text *"Atop the building, a 9,000-square-foot indoor park will be open to all, and the main floors will include a 4,000-square-foot interpretive centre. Brawn says it will highlight the movers and shakers in the history of this city's business, primarily within the oil and gas industry."* Looking forward to visiting this new feature, Bob. Great work!

**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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by the Petroleum History Society for Society members.**

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

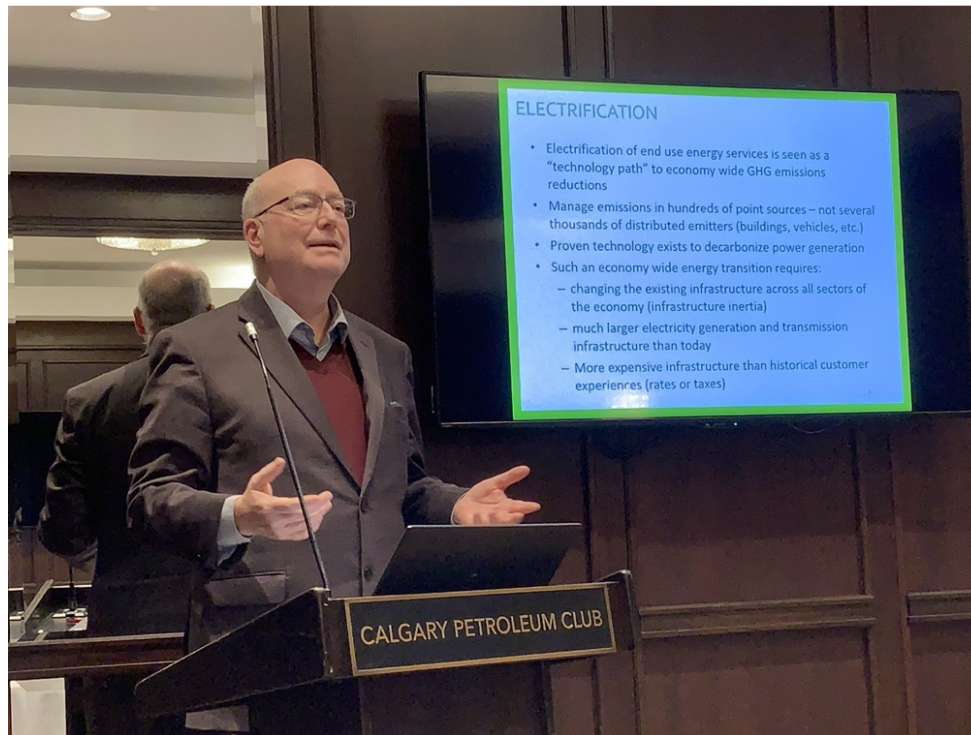
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## Luncheon Presentation – November 27, 2024



Allan Fogwill, Chief Operating Officer of the Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada, addresses the P.H.S. luncheon on “Net Zero – Not Zero: The Future History of Petroleum”.

Allan provided a very entertaining and insightful presentation about the future of energy production and consumption. He was kind enough to share his talk slides with us. We thank Allan for his engagement. The following highlights from his talk were recoded:

German energy has been a disaster. Coal and nuclear have been shut down but renewables have not filled the gap. Germany now gets nuclear power from France and coal power from Poland. A win for its own CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by outsourcing the problem!

Coal might be a better energy source than LNG because technology is more efficient at removing CO<sub>2</sub> from CO<sub>2</sub>-rich flue gases.

Time of day is an important consideration for energy consumption. Infrastructure must be able to supply peak demand so if consumption cycles can be flattened out somewhat, the electrical supply system can become more economical, robust and resilient.

The costs of electrification are significant. Might it be more efficient to burn hydrocarbons and then use direct air capture of CO<sub>2</sub> than going electric? Space requirements are large.

Financial implications of abandoning hydrocarbons include liability for stranded infrastructure costs and the loss of royalty and tax income for government.

Focus should be on methane as a greenhouse gas as it is more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>.



## FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS



Imperial Oil spend a large amount of money building their new office complex in Quarry Park in southeast Calgary. The offices are well-adorned, and I spotted a genuine Riopelle painting on a corridor wall. The future looked bright. However, over the last few years, Imperial has gradually reduced its manpower and its space requirements with Quarry Park becoming more like a ghost edifice. I attended a shareholder meeting there several years ago as well as a couple of technical meetings and was struck by how few folks were around.

The latest blow has been that Exxon is laying off 3-4% of its global staff. Imperial is on the cutting edge with a 20% reduction with basically all but some operations people in Canada facing redeployment or termination in one way or another.

The lobby contains several interesting displays including a race car and a large Inuit carving. Several of the more important items, from a petroleum history perspective, are a ship's bell and some related captioned photographs.

The ship in question was the "Royalite", launched in 1915 for Great Lakes service. Not obvious why the bell would say 1916 though. The ship predates the Royalite Company that Imperial established in 1921 to take over operations in Turner Valley from the struggling Calgary Petroleum Products Co. Ltd. Imperial apparently thought that the name would be suitable for another pioneering venture.



The Royalite/Imperial Welland (caption transcribed)

*The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of Imperial's first and longest-serving tanker, the Royalite, was marked in 2016 with the donation of the ship's bell to Imperial.*

*The Royalite, built in Collingwood, Ontario, was the first tanker built in Canada. She hit the water on December 15, 1915. The Royalite was originally intended for Great Lakes trade but was called into service for both World Wars and made several trans-Atlantic crossings while based in Halifax.*

*In 1947, the Royalite was renamed the Imperial Welland. A year later, the vessel suffered extensive bottom damage and lost her rudder in a grounding accident on a shoal near Canso, Nova Scotia. Fortunately, there was no cargo.*

*From 1957 to 1963, Imperial Welland was based in Montreal as a bunkering vessel, refueling other ships. Then she returned to the Great Lakes until the summer of 1965 when, along with Imperial Simcoe, she was sold for scrap to a Spanish company.*

*This bell from the 258-foot tanker was donated to Imperial by David G. P. Allan of Toronto who inherited the treasured relic from his father-in-law, W.O. Twaits. Twaits joined Imperial in 1933 and progressed through several increasingly senior positions throughout his career. He joined the Board in 1950, became President of the company in 1960 and served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1970 to 1973 before retiring in 1974.*



## LEGACY BELT BUCKLES (and their stories)



The Norman Wells expansion project in the Central Mackenzie River corridor of the Northwest Territories occurred in the early to mid-1980's. Northern LORAM worked with Imperial Oil, the owner and operator to make this major project a success.

According to an article by J.M. Smith in the July 1986 issue of the Journal of Canadian Petroleum Technology (most units switched back to imperial): *"Esso Resources Canada Limited is currently completing an oilfield expansion project at Norman Wells, Northwest Territories. Crude oil production will be increased from 3000 bbl/d to 30,000 bbl/d. The town of Norman Wells is located on the Mackenzie River, 156 km south of the Arctic Circle. About 60% of the oilfield lies beneath the Mackenzie River. The remainder is located under the north shore and under two natural islands in the river. The major facilities constructed for the project are six artificial islands in the Mackenzie River, 164 production and injection wells, a production gathering and injection pipeline system and a central oil and gas processing facility. Interprovincial Pipeline (NW) Limited is building a new buried pipeline to ship the produced crude oil south from Norman Wells to Zama, Alberta."*

*Due to the remote location and harsh climate of the Norman Wells site, it was decided to modularize the Central Processing Facility (CPF) to the maximum possible extent to achieve a significant cost saving. The 64 modules were built at a modularization site in Edmonton, resulting in higher labour productivity and lower on-site support costs. Virtually all facilities were modularized, including equipment, pipe racks and electrical cable tray racks. Modularization could also save the costs of subsistence, transportation and the need to work overtime at the Edmonton site. Module weights ranged up to 160 tons. Transportation of the modules involved trucking to Hay River, Northwest Territories, and barging to Norman Wells on the Mackenzie River. A novel approach was used to quickly unload, transport and set the modules in place at the site.*

*The Norman Wells CPF is designed to process 30,000 bbl. of crude oil and 15 mmcf of solution gas per day. Gas processing involves supplying lift gas and fuel gas and recovering propane and stabilized*

*condensate. The crude oil and condensate are blended and chilled to  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  [to prevent permafrost degradation] before entering Interprovincial pipeline for shipment to Zama. The CPF treats 40,000 bbl. of water per day from the Mackenzie River for injection into the reservoir. Produced water from the formation is also treated and injected. Three 7.4 MW gas turbine generators supply the electrical power to operate the plant and to supply power to the oilfield and the community of Norman Wells.”*



The February 13, 1947 discovery of oil at Leduc, Alberta was a turning point for Alberta. A recent article in Archives outlined the impact that the developments that followed had for Albertans on many levels – financially, culturally and socially. Its impetus led to many additional discoveries in the same part of the stratigraphic succession – and eventually to many others both deeper and shallower. The growth of Leduc and its cousins also followed the end of significant development and the decline of production at Turner Valley. Many Imperial employees who had cut their teeth with Royalite at Turner valley were redeployed to the north and brought with them the skills that they had acquired at Turner Valley. Imperial eventually sold Royalite and used the funds to support the exploitation of its more recent discoveries.

The celebration of this event has been spearheaded by the Leduc-Devon Historical Society. They have been instrumental in the construction of the Leduc No. 1 Discovery Centre to the south of Devon, now rebranded as the Canadian Energy Museum.

In 1990 a replica rig was raised over the original location of the discovery well, near the Museum. Readers might be more familiar with another Leduc-related rig that used to stand at the visitor welcome centre between the north- and south-bound legs of Highway No. 2, on the southern fringe of Edmonton.





The Pine River Gas Plant has been an important natural gas processing facility in the Foothills of Northeastern British Columbia. It handles sour gas from nearby structures. Its sales gas flows together with streams from other branches from the Fort St. John and Fort Nelson regions of the province before heading west and south through Prince George and on down to the Lower Mainland. This infrastructure was originally constructed by Westcoast Transmission and was later taken over by Spectra and then CNRL. In 2015 the Pine River plant had a capacity of 603 mmcf/d. In 2021 a strike threatened to cause decommissioning of the plant. Current status is not known.

The reservoirs that feed Pine River are mainly in the Triassic Baldonnel Formation that have been tightly folded and thrust. Excellent fracture development has led to high permeabilities and considerable interconnectivity allowing long distance lateral drainage of reserves. This is a curse or a blessing, depending on which side of the fence you are on. In the 1980's and 1990's operators like Talisman had long term processing contracts with the plant. Other operators like Shell were drilling good wells but were not able to get access to processing because it was all tied up. Shell eventually called "uncle" and got out.

This situation was and is a result of the absence of forced pooling and unitization in British Columbia. In other jurisdictions, if companies can demonstrate that they are attempting to exploit a common pool through the use of correlation, compositional parameters, pressure data and test results, the result will be negotiations to establish a plan for exploitation for the benefit of all owners – both royalty and title, with proper sharing of costs and revenues. Therefore no one company can monopolize the development at the expense of others.

A further dark side exists in the absence of unitization but in the presence of takeaway capacity - and that is unbridled drilling and production. The result is far too much capital expended and probably damage to the reservoir due to poor production practices. This situation occurred with the Devonian Ladyfern pool discovered in NEBC in the late 1990's. An upside, at least as far as the government is concerned, is a high level of industry resulting from this free-for-all. Whether they do this consciously or not is unknown. We all know that B.C. means "bring cash".





The Alliance Pipeline was built at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to connect Growing production volumes on Alberta and B.C. with markets in the American Midwest. It was initiated by shippers who found that the traditional pipeline companies were not meeting their needs. It is unique among major Canadian gas pipelines because natural gas liquids may be left in the gas stream. The pipeline system draws from 52 receipt points, largely concentrated near the northern end of the system in northeastern B.C. and northwestern Alberta. Alliance transports liquids-rich gas to the Chicago market hub. Extraction of the natural gas liquids occurs at the Aux Sable facility located near Chicago.

According to the Canadian Energy regulator's "Canada's Pipeline Transportation System Overview 2016", *"Alliance began operations in 2000, supported by 15-year firm transportation contracts. In 2010, when the option to renew these contracts was triggered, few shippers opted to do so (contracts were renewed for just 8% of previously contracted capacity). Accordingly, Alliance developed its New Services Offering (NSO), which incorporated new services and tolling methodologies on the pipeline. Alliance applied for Board approval of the NSO in 2014. By the time the hearing was completed in April 2015, the pipeline was nearly fully contracted under the proposed toll framework. The Board approved the proposed firm tolls and new services and granted Alliance some discretion in setting bid floors for seasonal firm service and interruptible service and instructed Alliance to put any excess cash earnings into a reserve account. Alliance is to file a depreciation study for Board approval before it can make any distributions from that account."*

*Capacity varies with ambient temperature, from 45 10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>/d (1.6 Bcf/d) in the summer to 51 10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>/d (1.8 Bcf/d) in the winter. The pipeline has been almost fully utilized since it was put into service. Throughput averaged 46 10<sup>6</sup>m<sup>3</sup>/d (1.63 Bcf/d) in 2015."*

# 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.**

**AXFORD, Donald “Jon”.** Born February 23, 1956 and passed away October 25, 2015. Jon was born in Calgary, AB but lived in many places including Midland, Texas and Stamford, Connecticut. Jon worked as a landman and also operated his own company working alongside his father, Don Axford, for many years.

*Editor note: Don Axford was a long-time member of the P.H.S. and is best remembered for his East Coast Offshore exploits on behalf of Mobil. He was a part of the Mobil organization which accounting for his many family moves, dragging Jon along with him. Jon’s small company was called Endless Energy. Shell partnered with them on a few occasions. I was in New Ventures and therefore met with him quite a few times. The lunchtime gathering spot for his company was in an old oilpatch hangout in the Lancaster Building in downtown Calgary. Jon and Don were often joined by John Andrichuk and Ralph Edie, both also P.H.S. members and storied explorers. My apologies for the tardiness of this obit – I just became aware of Jon’s passing.*

**BENEDICKTSON, Stephan V.** Born June 22, 1933 and passed away October 14, 2025. Stephan was the grandson of Stephan G. Stephanson, the Icelandic poet and pioneer who settled in Markerville, AB, in 1889. At the age of nine, Stephan lost his father and as a teenager, began working in the oilfields of northern Alberta. Stephan earned a degree in Engineering from the University of Alberta in 1962. He then embarked on a distinguished career in the oil industry that took him and his family around the globe. While living in Argentina, Stephan took up the sport of polo, which became a passion for many years. He played polo in Argentina, Calgary, California, and Mexico.

Stephan's legacy extended beyond his career; he was proud of his Icelandic heritage and served as the Consul of Iceland. Stephan established an endowment fund at the University of Iceland to enhance Canadian-Icelandic cultural relations. Stephan also supported two fellowships at the Banff Centre for artists from Iceland and Mexico. Never forgetting the scholarships that helped him at the University of Alberta, he established the Benediktson Scholarship through the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Association.

*Editor note: P.H.S. Director Doug Cass recalls that Stephan wrote a two-volume memoir: Benediktson, Stephan V., 2002. Stefan’s Story: a half century in the international oil business. Calgary: Benson Ranch, [he was an Engineer who worked for Esso and affiliates of Exxon in the U.S., Australia, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia, Amerada Hess in the United Arab Emirates, Bidas in Argentina, and Benson Petroleum, PetroSander Inc. and Kroes Energy in Calgary]*

\_\_\_\_\_ *As Restless as a Viking, 2016, Calgary: Benson Ranch. [Second volume of memoirs]*

*He used to come by the [Glenbow] Archives from time to time to do research on his grandfather and to drop off various books that he wrote about his life and family members.*

**EURCHUK**, Harold. Born in 1932 and passed away February 15, 2020. Harold worked as a geophysicist at Shell Canada, specializing in Foothills processing and interpretation.

*Editor note: Shell Canada's success in Foothills exploration in places like Jumping Pound, Waterton and Burnt Timber/Limestone was due to the processing skills of people like Harold.*

**FISHER**, William "Bill" Edward. Born July 23, 1930 and passed away November 20, 2024. Bill was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He was very proud of his family, of working at Shell and of being a Professional Engineer.

*Editor note: Bill Fisher was one of the leaders within Shell Canada's engineering community that worked on the processing of sour natural gas. More details about this group, including Bill's role, are contained in Fred Stenson's book "From Waste to Wealth".*

**GALLAGHER**, Thomas Patrick. Born March 5, 1952 and passed away September 14, 2025. Tom was born in Calgary, AB. He was the middle son of Jack and Katie Gallagher, who instilled in their children a love of exploration, inquiry, and spirited conversation. Family dinners were lively forums, fueled by Katie's dutifully clipped "Frontiers of Science" articles, where curiosity was always at the centre. He was educated in Calgary and Switzerland and earned his geology degree from the University of Calgary. Under the mentorship of renowned explorer Leo Miller, he built a career that took him across the globe - from the Canadian Arctic to South Africa and Australia - discovering and developing mineral and petroleum resources.

Tom's passion for geology reflected his broader love of the natural world. Geology, combined physical endurance with scientific inquisitiveness, always stretching him further and inspiring others to keep pace. After retiring professionally, Tom continued to explore. He mapped the geology of much of southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands - often by bicycle - and remained deeply engaged in science discussions through groups such as Ocean Networks Canada, Friends of Science, regular gatherings with friends and through public outreach, including a YouTube lecture on Earth's climate history. He delighted in encouraging his grandchildren and others to remain curious and inquisitive about the world, seeking the truth behind the headlines.

**GIBSON**, Robert William (Bob). Born on October 25, 1935 and passed away February 7, 2025. Bob was born in St. Boniface, MB. He moved to Alberta and worked for Shell as an Operator in gas plants in Alberta and B.C. He then migrated with his young family to Melbourne, Australia for seven years where he worked for Esso Chemicals. Later his expertise in oilfield chemical sales resulted in an extended three-year posting to Saudi Arabia. A return to Canada brought Bob's career to an end in Estevan, SK. His eventual choice for retirement was in Calgary. Bob had many interests including photography and gardening, and many athletic pleasures such as swimming and golf. As a fan, hockey and football filled many happy hours. His greatest passion was world-wide travel where he absorbed local cultures and enjoyed their cuisine.

**GRIEVE**, Robert Oliver. Born November 10, 1927 and passed away August 10, 2025. Bob was born in Ingersoll, Ontario. He grew up in southern Ontario and spent many summers enjoying



cottage life with family in Port Burwell on the shores of Lake Erie. He graduated with an Honours Science degree in Geology in 1949 from the University of Western Ontario and a M.Sc. in Geology from the University of Michigan in 1951. He began a lifelong and successful career with Imperial Oil in the 1950s in southwestern Ontario and then followed the oil patches to Alberta, B.C. and Texas. With Imperial Oil, Bob served as Chief Geologist and Exploration Manager for frontier areas such as the Beaufort Sea and the east coast of Canada.

**HAIDEY**, Douglas Allan. Born April 29, 1959 and passed away August 4, 2025. Doug was born and raised in Melfort, SK, where he had a great passion for baseball and hockey. At eighteen, he started his journey in the petroleum industry by leaving Melfort and moving to Alberta to work on the rigs. He found a great interest in this line of work so, to learn more, he went to SAIT and received his diploma in Petroleum Technology - Reservoir in 1981. After working for a brief period, and always determined to better himself, Doug went to the University of Tulsa, OK, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering in May of 1983.

Doug and Shirley were married on August 27, 1983. One of Doug's many goals was to own his own company, so in 1986 he took the leap and started Haidey & Associates. With long hours at the computer and a great deal of travelling to do field work - which he loved every minute of - he successfully ran his business for more than 30 years, with Shirley working alongside him. Because of the advancement in computer technology and the ability to work remotely from anywhere, Doug and Shirley acquired a Class A motorhome and spent the last ten years living between Cochrane, AB, and Las Vegas, NV. Doug had a great love of being outdoors, so this lifestyle suited him perfectly. He could be outside in the warmth of the Nevada heat and still was able to continue his work as much as ever, with a few golf games in between.

**HAY**, William Charles. Born December 9, 1935 and passed away October 25, 2024. Bill was born in Saskatoon, SK and played his junior hockey with the Regina Pats after which he moved on to further his education at Colorado College where he obtained his Bachelor of Geology degree while playing hockey for the Colorado College Tigers, winning the NCAA Championship in 1957. Bill "Red" Hay went on to play his 8-year professional career for the Chicago Blackhawks, becoming the first NCAA college graduate to play in the NHL. Bill won the Calder Memorial Trophy in 1960 and was an integral part of the Blackhawks' Stanley Cup Championship team in 1961. Bill retired from playing hockey in 1967 to join "Doc", BJ and Don Seaman in the oil and gas industry where he also left his legacy in the business community, including holding the position of President and CEO of the Calgary Flames from 1991-1995. Bill's many accomplishments include being inducted into the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame.

**KELLY**, Robert "Bob" Lewis. Born June 12, 1935 and passed away October 12, 2025. Born in Calgary, AB, Bob's early years were spent in a variety of places - from the rolling hills of Black Diamond, AB, to the bustling cities of Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Talara, Peru. While his parents lived in South America, Bob attended and boarded at the Mount Royal School for Boys, a formative chapter in a life defined by curiosity and independence. His next chapter took him to the University of Oklahoma to study petroleum engineering, launching a career that would take him across the globe.

Bob first started working with Halliburton in Ontario and was soon transferred to Victoria, B.C. While living in Victoria, Bob fully embraced the bachelor life and earned his pilot's license, bought a small plane and even a boat! That chapter shifted in 1965 when he met and married Jean, a local nurse. Together, they moved to Newfoundland as Bob continued his work in oil

and gas. In 1971, his young family moved to Trinidad, beginning years of international work and travel through Trinidad, Peru, and eventually back home to Calgary and the community of Maple Ridge. He continued working in the petroleum sector across Western Canada, Guyana, and Indonesia with Winterhawk Petroleum Services.

**KLOVAN**, John Edward "Ed". Born June 6, 1936 and passed away August 31, 2025. Born in Rich Valley, AB, just seven years after his parents Martin and Anna emigrated from Czechoslovakia, "Sonny" learned resilience early. Fatherless by age eight, looked after his devoted mother, he excelled in school and discovered a lifelong love of music. In 1952, he won the first-ever CKNW Search for Talent contest, which sent him that summer to the Banff School of Fine Arts. Though gifted in the arts, it was science that ultimately called him forward. Ed studied Geology at the University of Alberta, graduating with Honours in 1957, and went on to earn his Master's degree and Ph.D. at Columbia University in New York City. He returned to Canada in 1962 and began a distinguished career as both a professor and scientist. He became one of the first faculty members in the University of Calgary's newborn Department of Computer Science, also teaching in the Department of Geology and later serving as its Head (1974-1979).

Though brilliant and sometimes tough as an instructor, Ed was beloved for his generosity and humour. Students became lifelong friends, welcomed into the Klován home each summer for the legendary backyard prime rib charcoal BBQ's, hosted by the "Rock Doctor", that became a tradition. Life in Calgary's Scarboro neighborhood, beginning on April 1, 1967, brought over four decades of joy. Ed and Dorothy became central to the "Cookout Crowd," where he was always ready with his banjo to sing the R-rated camp songs he had picked up during summers in the field, gleefully harmonized by the always-lit gals by the bonfire. Those evenings, filled with music, laughter, and storytelling, became cherished Scarboro memories. Ed was famous for his basement workshop and ability to repair anything. He successfully took on broken cameras, vacuum cleaners, dishwashers and even a player piano for delighted friends and neighbours

After academic sabbaticals in Uppsala, Sweden, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Ed shifted his career in 1980 to become a geophysicist with Husky Oil, specializing in heavy oil extraction. His consulting work later took him across the globe - to India, China, Libya, and Kazakhstan - before retirement in 2006. Ed at his leisure pursued golf at the Elks Club, sang barbershop with the Stampede City Chorus (which his best friend Doug offered to buy every ticket to a concert just not to attend).

**MAYR**, Ulrich. Born May 16, 1939 passed away May 16, 2025. Ulrich as a research geologist who led expeditions that geo-mapped much of the Canadian Arctic with the Geological Survey of Canada.

**MONTANDON**, Francois Andre. Born October 23, 1940 and passed away July 4, 2025. Francois was born in Fleurier, Switzerland. He earned a Master's degree in geology from the University of Lausanne in 1966. After working as a university assistant, he immigrated to Canada in 1967 to join Texaco. He was initially posted to well-sites before settling in Calgary, AB, in early 1969. He continued his Canadian career with BP as a Foothills geologist, making a key discovery in the Sukunka area of British Columbia. In the early 1980s, he moved to Denver, CO, as Vice President, Exploration for Quasar Petroleum. He returned to Canada in 1983 to join Canadian Superior, and later Mobil Oil, where he supervised exploration across Western Canada and the Beaufort Sea. In retirement, he worked on special projects for ConocoPhillips,

including negotiations with France over offshore drilling rights near Saint Pierre and Miquelon. Francois was part of the famous "Swiss Mafia" in geological circles.

Francois is remembered by his friends and colleagues as "*an excellent geologist and dedicated colleague, a classy fellow, and a very good friend.*" A long-time member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (CSPG), he also gave back to the community through over 20 years of service with Meals on Wheels.

**PEACH**, Winnifred Lillian. Born November 6, 1928 and passed away June 1, 2025. Winnifred was born and raised in the town of Bulyea, Saskatchewan, a place she loved deeply. Her parents ran the local garage and were active in the community. The family loved to swim and picnic at nearby Last Mountain Lake. Following her father's early death in 1943, Winnifred coped bravely with her mother and sister, Beth. Winnifred graduated from high school in Regina and attained a B.Sc. in geology from the University of Alberta in 1949. She was employed as a geologist with Shell in Calgary. In 1952, she married Howard Byron Peach. The couple raised four children. As a mother, she encouraged her children to pursue their interests, especially in music, science and engineering. She made cherished dresses, sweaters, quilts, and works of embroidery. In the 1970s, Winnifred worked in the University of Calgary's geography department and became an art student. In 1976, she retired with Byron to a small farm close to Byron's ancestral home near Port Morien on Cape Breton Island. There they lived for forty years, growing apples, strawberries and vegetables that they enjoyed selling at the local farmers' market. Winnifred created paintings during that time which were mainly based on her rural and seaside surroundings.

*Editor note: We should mention that Barney was also a Shell geologist. Winnifred's marriage to him likely triggered a requirement that she resign from the company as that was a common industry practice back in those days. Seems like a wasteful way of operating. Ruth Peach, daughter of Winnifred and Barney, has continued the family tradition and has worked in various capacities for the Geological Survey of Canada in Calgary.*

**PENHALE**, William. Born 1934 and passed away March 12, 20025. Following his basic schooling in St. Thomas, ON, Bill entered Queen's University and graduated in 1956 as a chemical engineer. In subsequent years he worked in engineering and procurement functions in several locations in western and central Canada. One of his early positions was in the (then) small town of Fort McMurray, AB, where he worked for Great Canadian Oil Sands. That remote northern environment lent itself to family wilderness adventures of all sorts, wonderful experiences for his three young sons.

After multiple moves Bill and Barbara eventually settled in Calgary, AB. Bill retired from Imperial Oil but established his own business in supply management and worked in that capacity until he retired fully. Bill was a lifelong aviation enthusiast. He earned his private pilot license as a young man and enjoyed building and flying radio-controlled models for many years. His enthusiasm for aviation has been absorbed by his three sons, who are all very knowledgeable about the subject in their own ways. Bill never tired of looking skyward when a flying machine passed overhead.



**PLATT**, Ronald “Ron” Lorne. Born June 15, 1932 and passed away January 10, 2025. Ron was born in High River, AB. After living in many different locations throughout Alberta, he settled in Calgary in 1963.

Ron graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. with Honours in Geology in 1959, which was followed by an M.Sc. in Geology in 1960. Upon graduation, he worked for Mobil Oil Canada where he had been previously employed before university and again during the summers. During his time with Mobil Oil, he was fortunate to have been able to travel throughout Alberta and the Northwest Territories on many oil and gas exploration trips. After retirement, Ron busied himself with volunteer work. A highlight was volunteering as a driver for the Olympic Games in Calgary in 1988.

**RASPORICH**, Anthony “Tony” Walter. Born January 9, 1940 and passed away August 9, 2025. Anthony was born in Port Arthur (Thunder Bay), ON. He attended St. Andrew’s School (was an altar boy as a child), and Port Arthur Collegiate Institute, where he excelled as a student and in sports, breaking a provincial high jump record and playing basketball with lifelong friends. He went on to receive his B.A. and M.A. in History from Queen’s University, and to play basketball for the Golden Gaels. He obtained his Ph.D. in Canadian History from the University of Manitoba, where he studied under the prominent Western Canadian historian W.L. Morton.

At the University of Calgary, Tony held several administrative positions, including Head of the Department of History, Associate Dean, and Dean of the Social Sciences. As a history professor, he taught various courses and supervised many graduate students. As an author, his books and articles were largely focused on Western Canadian history and multicultural subjects. He was an early advocate of multiculturalism in Canada, a supporter of the Journal of Ethnic Studies, and author of *“For a Better Life: The History of the Croats in Canada”*. Anthony was committed to advocating for Western Canada through making its history known in books like *“The Making of the Modern West”*, *“Winter Sports in the West”*, *“Frontier Calgary”*, and the history of the University of Calgary, *“Make No Small Plans”*.

**SEAMAN**, Donald “Don” Roy. Born on July 26, 1925 and passed away July 9, 2025. Don was born in Rouleau, SK, the youngest and last surviving of a cohort of four children. His siblings were Dorothy Hamilton, Doc, and BJ Seaman. Being the youngest, he developed a competitive spirit, always trying to keep up with his highly achieving big brothers. He was always known for catching the biggest fish, driving the longest ball, walking fastest up the hill, or beating you in cards.

His father was a road contractor, and his mother was a homemaker whose deepest wish was that her children be educated. Don often talked with sorrow during the last months of his life, how his mother was forced to quit school after grade eight, as her father said that girls did not need an education. Largely, as a result of her determination, all four of her children achieved degrees from the University of Saskatchewan. All three of her sons graduated in Mechanical Engineering. Don said they all chose Mechanical Engineering so they could share the same textbooks. In 2019, Don received an Honourary Doctor of Laws degree from his alma mater.

In the early 1950s, while surveying in Québec, Don received a call that was to change his life - his brothers had started a drilling company in Calgary and asked him to join them. Their family business, which started with Seaman Engineering and Drilling, grew into a merger with a public

company called Hi Tower Drilling. The name was later changed to Bow Valley Industries which ultimately grew into a global energy company with interests all over the world.

In 1987, Bow Valley was taken over by British Gas. He then decided to develop separate business interests from his brothers. During this time, he often served as a mentor to young entrepreneurs, offering counsel, guidance, and capital. It was a fundamental principle to Don to “give back,” as a result of which he created the Don and Eleanor Seaman Foundation through which he generously supported a wide variety of worthy initiatives. He was also a key contributor to the Laurie Ircandia Memorial Scholarship at the University of Calgary. Don’s life is not to be captured only by his business success. His drive for excellence, his work ethic, loyalty, honesty, and sincerity were always reflected in his work. It was said that the Seaman brothers could do a deal on a handshake - and that would be their bond.

When two of his grandsons and their teammates were having trouble finding baseball fields to play in Calgary, he, along with his son-in-law, John Ircandia, decided to build them - and future youth players - a baseball stadium. And so, they did. Today, Seaman Stadium in Okotoks, AB, has become a multi-million-dollar indoor and outdoor facility and home of the Okotoks Dawgs Baseball Program. It is now the top draw in Canada for summer collegiate baseball and third-highest draw in all of North America. Don was honoured for this achievement at the Top 7-over-70 Event in 2017. At that time, he was 92 years old. Don was a man who loved life. His brother Doc Seaman published a biography entitled, “Staying in the Game,” meaning never retire. Don took this message to heart and did not retire until he was 98 years old.

**TROLLOPE**, Janet Swanson. Born August 19, 1933 and passed away January 15, 2025. Janet was born in Maple Creek, SK. As a child of a Canadian Pacific Railway field employee, Janet spent much of her childhood and adolescence in several western Canadian towns, eventually settling in Edmonton, AB, and graduating from Strathcona High School. After high school, Janet worked at the ammonia plant and was also a dental assistant for a while. She met Frederick Trollope, a young geologist, and they were married in 1953, eventually moving to Regina, SK, and then to Calgary, AB, in 1963. Janet was the devoted matriarch of her family and kept the household and family running smoothly while Fred would often be out at various field locations in Western Canada.

*Editor note: As stated, Janet was the wife of Fred Trollope, a well-known Mobil geologist in Calgary. Fred’s obit was in a previous issue of Archives. Their son, Scott, my first manager at Shell Canada, went on to a lengthy international career in the petroleum industry.*

**THOMSON**, John William. Born December 28, 1928 and passed away January 9, 2025. John was born in Toronto, Ontario. He grew up during the Great Depression while his father struggled to support the family. John’s tenacity and determination showed early when he earned a scholarship to the University of Toronto Schools (UTS) in 1937. There, he forged lifelong friendships that would support and inspire him throughout his journey. He later achieved his Chartered Accountant designation through Queen’s University while apprenticing at Clarkson Gordon and working summers as a bellhop in St. Andrews by the Sea, N.B.

In 1955, John moved to Calgary, where his life truly began to flourish. John’s professional life was marked by extraordinary achievements. In 1965, he founded Thomson Drilling, growing the company into a major international success. His entrepreneurial spirit was matched by a deep commitment to his country. When the National Energy Program created challenges for Alberta’s

energy sector, John transitioned to public service, becoming the Conservative M.P. for Calgary South in 1978. In Ottawa, he worked tirelessly to make a positive impact, earning respect across party lines for his integrity and vision.

**VALENTINE, Roland.** Born November 28, 1938 and passed away April 19, 2025. Roland was born in Calgary, AB. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Subsequently, he taught physics at SAIT, then moved to Regina, SK, to work for Texaco in the refining division. Following this, Roland went to Montreal, QC, to work for Nesbitt Thompson as a stockbroker. He moved to England to further work for Nesbitt Thompson until 1975, when he moved back to Calgary to start working in oil and gas for Turbo Resources. He then branched off to create his own oil and gas company, Twin Richfield Oils, and subsequently Trafina Energy Ltd. where he worked until his retirement in 2009.

**WICKERSON, Glenn Gregory.** Born 1950 and passed away October 30, 2024. Glenn grew up on the family farm east of Crossfield where he learned the value of a hard day's work, including early mornings of feeding cattle and turkeys, long hours throwing bales, and assisting with the annual harvest. He graduated from the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary in 1971 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in accounting. Glenn then articulated at Riddell Stead and earned his Chartered Accountant designation in 1974. Glenn excelled in tax and was invigorated by the set-up and implementation of advanced tax planning techniques. In addition to being a Tax Partner at Peat Marwick (KPMG), during his nearly 40-year career, Glenn held senior leadership positions at Dome Petroleum, Amoco Canada, and BP Energy.

## **OTHER NOTEABLE PASSINGS**

**LE PICHON, Xavier.** Passed away March 2025. Geophysicist Le Pichon was one of the pioneers of plate tectonics and a member of Maurice Ewing's team at Lamont in the 1960's. Le Pichon was one of the giants in the Plate Tectonic revolution, authoring one of the seminal papers in the period of 1967-1968 laying out and verifying the mathematical theory of Plate Tectonics. He had a long illustrious career starting at Columbia University and holding various faculty and chair positions at the Universite Pierre et Marie Curie, the Ecole Normale Supérieure and lastly the College de France.

**VAIL, Peter.** Passed away in late 2024.

This tribute courtesy of Malcolm Ross, a colleague of Dr. Vail.

Dr. Peter Vail was a visionary geologist at Exxon and Rice University whose groundbreaking work to integrate geology and geophysics revolutionized the interpretation of subsurface data, hydrocarbon exploration, and our understanding of Earth's geological history. He was the first to demonstrate that seismic reflections follow geologic timelines rather than lithofacies boundaries. This revelation laid the foundation for the development of seismic and sequence stratigraphic interpretation methodologies, which remain central to geological and geophysical research today.

Dr. Vail's research illuminated the connection between seismic reflection patterns and globally correlative sea-level changes, culminating in the co-creation (with John Sangree and Bob Mitchum) of the renowned "Vail Curve," a model that illustrates these fluctuations across



geologic time. His curiosity extended beyond observation - he sought to understand the driving mechanisms behind these sea-level changes. Drawing from diverse disciplines and collaborating with colleagues from across the scientific spectrum, he explored and shared with colleagues and students how the dynamic interplay of forces shaping Earth's surface and the variability of sea-level expressions in different depositional environments.

While his ideas gained widespread acceptance, they also sparked debate. One of Dr. Vail's most admirable qualities was his ability to engage in thoughtful and respectful discourse with those who held differing perspectives. He approached such conversations with humility, patience, and a genuine desire to advance collective understanding. Known for his brilliant memory and insights, his humility and kindness led to the formation of mentorships that led to lifelong friendships with his colleagues and students.

Over the course of his illustrious career, Dr. Vail received numerous accolades, including the Sidney Powers Memorial Award and the Distinguished Educator Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Penrose Medal from the Geological Society of America in 2003, and the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Earth and Environmental Science in 2005.

Dr. Peter Vail's profound contributions have left an indelible mark on the geosciences, and his legacy endures in the work of countless geologists and geophysicists who continue to build upon his foundational discoveries. His passion for knowledge, collaborative spirit, and enduring curiosity remain an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps.

*Editor note: I heard some time ago that Dr. Vail had had an unfortunate accident. Apparently, he was leaning back in a chair, lost his balance and broke his neck, leading to paralysis. I don't know if that is true and, if it is, the degree to which it might have slowed him down. In any case, every time I see an unstable chair I think of him.*

