
PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY

OIL SANDS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

FINAL REPORT: FEBRUARY 2014

Funded by the petroleum industry and the Province of Alberta, and managed by the Petroleum History Society (PHS), the Oil Sands Oral History Project (OSOHP) is the most extensive historical research and documentation project on the oil sands industry. Conceptualized in 2009, funding came from public and private-sector sources.

The project captured the memories of people who played key roles in the development of the oil sands in audio and video format. All experienced writers and authors, the research team included Robert Bott, Brian Brennan, Adriana Davies, Gordon Jaremko and Peter McKenzie-Brown. The first interview, with the late Peter Lougheed, took place in June, 2010. Mr. Lougheed is one of three interviewees who passed away during the first years of the project.

After transcription, the project's researchers checked them for errors and gave interviewees the opportunity to review them. The Petroleum History Society deposited the audio files, videos and transcriptions, plus a brief biography of each subject and any donated documents to the archives associated with the Calgary-based Glenbow Museum, where they have become a permanent resource for historians and other researchers. This project completed 119 interviews and transcriptions (see attachment).

Public Profile

The project coordinator, Peter McKenzie-Brown, took a number of steps to garner publicity for the project. The first was to propose the creation of a series of columns about oil sands history to the editor of the industry magazine *Oilsands Review*. This magazine has published columns of approximately 1,500 words every month since June 2011. Known as the "Hourglass" series, these columns are based on interviews from this project.

In addition, in January and February 2013 the Calgary Association of Life-long Learners and PHS formed a partnership to provide a series of "lunch and learn" lectures on the oil sands at the ConocoPhillips theatre located at the Glenbow Museum. The CBC served as media sponsor for this series, and its flagship *Calgary Eyeopener* radio program conducted an extended, early-morning



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interview on the series. In addition, CBC personalities served as moderators for each lecture. The 200-seat theatre was full for each event, and the topics covered were the following

1. January 22: “The Visionaries – Six Oils Sands Pioneers”- Peter McKenzie-Brown, petroleum journalist and historian; CAPP now hosts this speech on its website.
2. January 29: “Oil Sands Extraction Technologies” – John Elliott, Manager, Oil Sands Recovery Research, Imperial Oil Limited.
3. February 5: “Oil Sands Economics” – Paul Precht, energy economics consultant;
4. February 12: “Assessing Socio/Environmental Impacts of Oil Sands Development: The Beginnings” – Adriana Davies, heritage consultant.
5. February 19: “Canada’s Oilsands – Challenges and Opportunities” - Ed Whittingham, Executive Director, Pembina Institute.
6. February 26: “Oil Sands Monitoring” – Ernie Lui, CEO, Environment Monitoring Agency of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Development.

In December 2012, the *Calgary Herald* published a feature article in its business section titled “Author collates science and sweat of oilsands past” by business editor Stephen Ewart.

Donor Recognition

To recognize the contributors to this project, every transcribed page includes the footer used in this report. These pages are now available in printed form at the Glenbow Archives, but also in PDF format from the Glenbow’s website. We note with satisfaction that most of Canada’s senior bitumen producers contributed to this oral history project.

**Prepared by
Peter McKenzie-Brown
January 22, 2014**



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COMPLETED INTERVIEWS

Oil Sands Oral History Project

September 4, 2013

	First Name	Surname	Principal Affiliation	Residence
1.	Mickey	Abougoush	Amoco; private consultancy	Calgary
2.	Brad	Anderson	Alberta Chamber of Resources	Edmonton
3.	David	Armstrong	Imperial Oil	Calgary
4.	Jack	Avery	Suncor Operations	Fort McMurray
5.	Gene	Bacon	GCOS/Suncor HR	Edmonton
6.	John	Barr	Syncrude Canada	Delta BC
7.	Guy	Boutilier	Mayor and MLA	Fort McMurray
8.	Clem	Bowman	Chair AOSTRA; Imperial Oil	Sarnia ON
9.	Cliff	Britch	Suncor	Kelowna BC
10.	John	Broadhurst	VP Shell	Calgary
11.	Larry	Brocke	Alberta Environment	Edmonton
12.	Elmer	Brooker	Engineering consultant	Edmonton
13.	David	Brown	Director Canmet Energy, Devon	Edmonton
14.	Gerry	Burden	Imperial Oil; incorporated Syncrude	Calgary
15.	Terry	Burton	Suncor	Edmonton
16.	Neil	Camarta	VP Oil Sands Petro-Canada/Suncor	Calgary
17.	Maurice	Carrigy	Chair AOSTRA	Canmore
18.	Jim	Carter	CEO Syncrude Canada	Edmonton
19.	William (Bill)	Cary	GCOS (Suncor Energy)	Canmore
20.	Harbir	Chhina	VP Cenovus Energy SAGD pioneer	Calgary
21.	C.R. (Chuck)	Collyer	Syncrude; Bechtel	Canmore
22.	Ted	Cyr	AOSTRA, Alberta Energy	Edmonton



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23.	Lester	Deep	Suncor Operations	Fort McMurray
24.	Gerry	DeSorcy	Chair ERCB	Calgary
25.	William D	Dickie	Former Alberta Energy Minister	Calgary
26.	Howie	Dingle	Esso VP	Calgary
27.	Richard	Dixon	U of A Centre of Applied Business Research	Edmonton
28.	Grant	Duncan	Principal Production Engineer In Situ Resources, Suncor	Calgary
29.	Maurice	Dusseault	University of Waterloo	White Rock BC
30.	Neil	Edmunds	Laricina	Calgary
31.	Alan	Fair	Director of Tailings EPA, COSIA	Edmonton
32.	Keith	Firmin	Shell Canada	Calgary
33.	Charlie	Fischer	Nexen CEO	Calgary
34.	Richard L (Rick)	George	CEO Suncor Energy	Calgary
35.	Ned	Gilbert	Suncor Energy	Calgary
36.	Ray	Gillespie	Esso Cold Lake	Cold Lake
37.	Simon	Gittins	Cenovus	Calgary
38.	George	Govier	Chair ERCB	Calgary
39.	Murray	Gray	Director, Centre of Oil Sands Innovation	Edmonton
40.	Ron	Gray	First Syncrude employee; executive positions	Edmonton
41.	Maggie	Hannah	Geological Consultant	Calgary
42.	Hassan	Hamza	Director, CANMET Energy	Devon
43.	Jack	Haston	Suncor	Calgary
44.	Toshiku	Hirata	President Japex (Japan Canada Oil Sands)	Calgary
45.	Chris	Holoboff	Cold Lake High School	Cold Lake
46.	Ernie	Hui	Alberta Environment	Edmonton
47.	William (Bill)	Humphreys	Abasand	Calgary
48.	Al	Hyndman	Syncrude Canada Research/Operations	Saanich BC
49.	Eddy	Isaacs	Alberta Innovates Alberta Research Council	Calgary



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50.	Dave	Krook	Esso Cold Lake	Cold Lake
51.	Bert	Lang	Suncor/head of Millennium Project	Edmonton
52.	Vern	Larson	Director Imperial Oil Research	Calgary
53.	Peter	Lougheed	Premier Province of Alberta	Calgary
54.	Richard	Luhning	AOSTRA	Calgary
55.	Jean	Lund	Syncrude	Edmonton
56.	Neil	Lund	Syncrude	Edmonton
57.	Donald S	Macdonald	Energy Minister Government of Canada	Toronto ON
58.	Hans	Maciej	Canadian Petroleum Association (now CAPP)	Calgary
59.	Bert	MacKay	Suncor Safety and Training	St Albert
60.	Preston	Manning	Ernest Manning (his father)	Calgary
61.	Dee (Parkinson)	Marcoux	VP Suncor Energy	Vancouver BC
62.	Jacob	Masliyah	University of Alberta	Edmonton
63.	William (Bill)	McAffrey	Founder and CEO MEG Energy	Calgary
64.	Bob	McClements	GCOS construction CEO of Sun Oil	Key Largo FL
65.	Neil	McCrank	Chair ERCB	Calgary
66.	Anne	McLellan	Energy Minister Government of Canada	Edmonton
67.	Bill	Mooney	Cities Service; Syncrude	Calgary
68.	Norbert	Morgenstern	University of Alberta	Edmonton
69.	Thomas	Morimoto	Bitumount	Kelowna BC
70.	Arthur	Morris	Suncor Heavy Equipment Operator	Edmonton
71.	Jane	Morris	Suncor Human Resources	Edmonton
72.	Prakash	Mullick	Suncor Standards Program	Edmonton
73.	Patricia (Black)	Nelson	Alberta Energy Minister	Calgary
74.	Eric	Newell	CEO Syncrude Canada	Edmonton
75.	Randy	Ottenbreit	Imperial Oil including Cold Lake	Calgary
76.	Frederick	Otto	Dean of Engineering emeritus U of A	Edmonton
77.	Harold	Page	GCOS; Alberta Chamber of Resources	Edmonton



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79.	Albert	Poulette	Alberta Environment, Manager, Compliance	Edmonton
80.	Paul	Precht	Alberta Energy	Edmonton
81.	Carolyn	Preston	CONRAD	Calgary
82.	Roland	Priddle	Chair National Energy Board	Ottawa ON
83.	David	Redford	AOSTRA	Edmonton
84.	Joy	Romero	CNRL Horizon Project	Calgary
85.	Robert	Rosen	City Lumber Supply Chain	Edmonton
86.	Brian	Rottenfusser	UTF geologist	Calgary
87.	Germain	Routhier	Suncor Operations	Fort McMurray
88.	Mark	Ruschkowski	Esso Cold Lake	Cold Lake
89.	David	Ryan	Suncor PR & Training	Edmonton
90.	Bob	Scarborough	Dome Amoco steam technology	Calgary
91.	David	Schindler	U of A	Edmonton
92.	Glen	Schmidt	Laricina	Calgary
93.	Brent	Scott	CEO Syncrude Canada	Vancouver BC
94.	Tony	Settari	U of C	Calgary
95.	John	Shaw	U of A, Chair in Petroleum Thermodynamics	Edmonton
96.	Mary Clark	Sheppard	Karl Clark (biographer of her father)	Edmonton
97.	Cal	Sikstrom	Imperial Oil environmentalist	Cold Lake
98.	Gale	Simpson	AOSTRA	Calgary
99.	Kem	Singh	Director, Air, Land and Water, Alberta Environment	Edmonton
100.	Dr. Robert	Skinner	Alberta ADM Energy; IEA; Statoil Canada	Calgary
101.	George	Skulsky	Suncor Superintendent of Operations	Edmonton
102.	Bruce	Slevinsky	Esso and Imperial	Calgary
103.	Nell	Spragins	Widow of Frank Spragins	Canmore
104.	Gerry	Stephenson	AOSTRA/Underground Test Facility	Canmore
105.	Barry	Stewart	Imperial/PetroCanada/Suncor exec.	Calgary
106.	Bruce	Stewart	Former Director, CANMET Energy	Devon
107.	Jack	Suggett	Athabasca Oil Sands	Calgary



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107.	Michael A (Mike)	Supple	Suncor executive now chair of Synenco	Calgary
108.	Robert W (Bob)	Taylor	Alberta ADM-Oil; Amoco Canada	Calgary
109.	Don	Thompson	Syncrude Oil Sands Developers Group	Edmonton
110.	Don	Towson	Petro Canada PCEJ Electric Heat Pilot	Calgary
111.	Ron	Wallace	AEMP Panel; AEMWG Chair AEMMB Vice Chair; AOSERP program	Calgary
112.	Allan	Warrack	MLA, Professor, Business Economics, U of A	Edmonton
113.	Kathryn	Wood	AOSTRA; RMRC Implementation Team	Edmonton
114.	Barry	Worbets	Statoil	Calgary
115.	Chi-Tak	Yee	Roger Butler's partner VP MEG Energy	Calgary
116.	K.C.	Yeung	Oil sands reservoir engineer	Calgary
117.	Erdal	Yildirim	Syncrude National Oil Sands Task Force	Calgary



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