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**Burning rocks: the history of the petroleum industry in  
Canada and the Maritimes**

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GRANT WACH

*Department of Earth Sciences, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova  
Scotia B3H 4R2, Canada <grant.wach@dal.ca>*

From Abraham Gesner's discovery of kerosene that marked the demise of the whaling industry, to Encana's new high-tech Deep Panuke gas development off the shores of Nova Scotia, both Canada and the Maritimes have led the world in oil and gas exploration. It was in Petrolia, Ontario where the first oil was pumped in 1865. This led to the development of the Canadian drill rig which was a simple, sturdy, wooden structure that could be dismantled and set-up in two days; they were used all over the world from the United States to Indonesia. At about the same time, Imperial Oil developed oil refining in London, Ontario. This lecture traces the development of oil and gas exploration in Canada and the people who led the way.