

## **DOMINION GOVERNMENT PETROLEUM REGULATIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON OIL SANDS DEVELOPMENT TO 1930**

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For twenty-five years after Alberta was created as a province in 1905, the Dominion, or Federal, Government of Canada controlled land and resource development in this province until 1930 when control of Alberta's land and resources was finally turned over to the province. Until then, Alberta was not on equal footing with the four original partners of Confederation that had been granted control of their provincial lands and resources under the British North America Act. Until 1910, a limited number of individuals purchased petroleum and natural gas rights along with surface rights in Alberta; however, a major change in Dominion policy in 1910 allowed only for the leasing of these rights.

During this period of federal government control, efforts were initiated to unleash the petroleum embedded in what was then officially called and defined as "tar-sands" in the regulations. As more was learned about the unique features of the tar-sands or oil sands located in north-east Alberta, various recovery methods were attempted. In turn, government regulations reflected an increasing knowledge of the potential pool of oil in the northern Alberta region and regulations specific to tar-sands and then bituminous sands were introduced.

Several companies and individuals attempted to win the oil believed to be embedded in the oil sands. Methods of recovery included traditional drilling first, then in-situ methods and finally the first successful recovery using an experimental separation process. Exploration was originally confined to the shores of that Athabasca River, the main route of transportation, and then eventually to land surrounding the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway when it finally inched its way towards the great waterways of the north.

### **THE TIME HAS COME ...**

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The Maritime province of New Brunswick is full of many wonders. Joyce Hunt grew up in Moncton and completed her post-secondary education at the University of New Brunswick [UNB]. Hunt taught school in communities not far from Saint John before moving to Alberta with her husband Peter, who

as a university student, as well as upon graduating from UNB School of Engineering, worked for Irving Oil. Little did she know that while exploring this wonderland with her family as a child and later studying Canadian history that her adventures and education would lay the foundation for her curiosity about the oil sands in northeast Alberta. This background ultimately resulted in her book on the early history of the oil sands.

Hunt will share some of her early recollections of her wonderings and what she learned about the riches of New Brunswick along with the petroleum history of New Brunswick not only as a child, but also as she researched background information for her book *Local Push Global Pull – The Unknown History of the Athabaska Oil Sands*.

"Hunt's introduction to petroleum was as an early age in her home province of New Brunswick. Her father would take family drives in Alberta County, stopping to visit the historic Albert Mines, site of the Albertite oil shale. She also recalls the 'horrible smell' of her grandparents' gas-lighted home, in Surrey."

*Oil Sands Review*, February 2009

## **ASPHALT PAVING AND OIL REFINING RETORTS MEET MUD FLOOD HISTORY**

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Evidence of boilers, refineries and oil tank car refilling depots using carbon and free energy interchangeably is yet to be discovered by mud flood historians. Mud flood history examines evidence of structures interrelating people, water, land, air and static electricity prior to the advent of refined carbon becoming a primary transportation power source. Researchers examine images and history published worldwide, dating from rare books in antiquity to the 1800s. Their efforts building this genre enrich petroleum history as enthusiasts explore in detail answers to the decline in the use of free energy from 1811 on.

Advancement from batch still refining to continuous distillation at petroleum's genesis occurred precisely when frustrated leaders of storm-deluged towns sought road improvements beyond boardwalks nailed above loose soil and rocks as oil slick applied over dirt avenues tried to hold the line against flood decimation every time it rained. Capitalization of patented asphalt processes and similar patents on implements for asphaltting would, like modern farm implements, become a

major tool in the arsenal of progress to quell silt and mud to behave as man wished.

By 1916, patent registrations became a form of disclosure about emerging technologies in building materials, fuel, contraptions and processes of every kind by countries agreeing to register patents. Patents became big news for investors worldwide and for people who petitioned governments for innovations they wanted, including ways to tame the weather that caused the mud. Competition for disruptive technology to dominate via registered patents was fierce by 1919. Patents accelerated progress beyond any previous human imagination and catapulted petroleum literally into the atmosphere.

Covering three decades in early petroleum history, the daughter of M. J. Trumble saved pictures of continuous distillation refineries. Until metals were proven to withstand highest heat and storm cell activity for multi-stage continuous refining, Trumble retort smokestacks and their heating ovens below were enclosed in brick anchored upon outdoor star fort-shaped brick bases that he and collaborators constructed. The brick in photographic evidence is similar to that cited by mud flood historians. Whether or not the brick was excavated used brick, this material was exemplary enough to deploy or replicate in apparatus refining explosive tar and oil. At one large refinery Trumble designed in 1912, it appears two brick retort towers were painted white so as to not appear brick, an approach later adopted by many builders to destylize use of the old brick from ‘the times before.’

The process Trumble adopted with his signature brick-enclosed refineries won sale to and adoption by a large global petroleum syndicate who used his surname for his refining process they deployed worldwide via his patents but whose name he was not licensed to use. His peculiar notions applying rudimentary free energy appear traceable to European scientists of the mid-1800’s. These untrained, organic scientists that influenced MJ also influenced other inventors of his time. They shared familiarity with their use of atmospheric free energy and ideas from the mud flood era called in an 1893 children’s book owned by the inventor’s wife ‘the times before.’

#### **CANADA’S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY HISTORY ON POSTAGE STAMPS AND PHILATELIC COVERS**

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Unlike the United States, Canada has strongly documented on postage stamps the history and the importance of their pe-

troleum industry for over 50 years. This began with the March 1, 1950, 50-cent stamp to commemorate oil development in western Canada. The stamp includes a beautifully engraved image of oil derricks, a gas flare, and storage tanks. This postage stamp was the first of at least twelve Canadian postage stamps with petroleum themes issued between 1950 and 2008.

On September 10, 1958, the centennial of the country’s petroleum industry, first established at Oil Springs, Ontario, was commemorated with a 5-cent stamp depicting an oil lamp and a refinery. The release of this stamp coincided with the World Power Conference that convened in Montreal from September 7-11, 1958. Canada was host to some seventeen hundred delegates representing fifty-two countries. There were many interesting cachets designed for the first day covers of this stamp. These were designed by individuals, cachet companies, and oil corporations.

Canadian stamps cover a variety of petroleum-related topics, including the Athabasca tar sands (1978), the kerosene lamp (1988), the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy, and Petroleum (1998), Abraham Gesner (2000), and Petro-Canada (2000). In 2008 Canada issued a pair of stamps to celebrate the country’s first transcontinental oil pipeline and the first commercial oil well, depicting Oil Springs’ oil pioneers James Miller Wilson and Charles Tripp.

#### **HANS KUGLER & JOHN SAUNDERS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON TRINIDAD EXPLORATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOSTRATIGRAPHY**

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In 1913, Swiss geologist Hans G. Kugler (b. 1893) accompanied his mentor, August Tobler, to Trinidad to carry out geological field work. During this excursion, the value of foraminifera (global geological correlation) for oil exploration was first recognized by Tobler while sampling the coast with Kugler. This work inspired Kugler’s interest in developing micropaleontology in Trinidad, improving dating methods using planktic foraminifera. Dr. Kugler was appointed Chief Geologist of Trinidad Leaseholds Limited (TLL) in 1929. In 1956, Texaco acquired TLL, and Dr. Kugler retired as Chief