

Turner Valley Firsts - A Historical Review of the Accomplishments of Canada's First 100 Million Barrel Oilfield

David Finch

Summary

Almost lost in the mists of time, the Turner Valley oilfield development process is little known to most people.

But discovery, production, upgrading and transporting petroleum products in the Turner Valley era were as important to the early western Canadian oil industry as they are to the oil patch today.

Historian David Finch has written extensively about the Turner Valley oilfield and his presentation will explain why the head offices of the Canadian oil industry are located in Calgary, the reasons for the creation of the Turner Valley Oil and Gas Conservation Board - today's AER, how Canada's first scrubbing plant, high pressure gasoline plant and propane plant all came to be built in Turner Valley - before 1950, and why two companies saw fit to begin storing natural gas in an exhausted gas field in 1930 - 8 years before required to do so by the Conservation Board. And how Turner Valley contributed to the demise of Alberta's little remembered Provincial Sales Tax.

If time permits, he may even delve into some of the little-known tales of the once-a-decade petroleum pipeline controversies that have been part of the story of oil in the Canadian West.

David Finch is the author of several books about the Canadian oil industry, including *Hell's Half Acre: Early Days in the Great Alberta Oil Patch*; *Traces Through Time: A History of Geophysical Prospecting for Petroleum in Canada*; *From the Beginning: Schlumberger's History in the Canadian Oil and Gas Industry*; *Leduc: A Living History*; *Field Notes: The story of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists*. He is also a columnist for the *Calgary Herald*, where his writings have morphed into a weekly opinion blog of stories about Turner Valley in the *Herald Rewind* section at <http://blogs.calgaryherald.com>.