

Spring  
2014

# Chinook Country Historical Society Newsletter

## Chinook Country Historical Society

is a

Chapter of the Historical  
Society of Alberta

Office

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[www.chinookcountry.org](http://www.chinookcountry.org)  
[www.albertahistory.org](http://www.albertahistory.org)

[facebook.com/ChinookCountry  
HistoricalSociety](https://facebook.com/ChinookCountryHistoricalSociety)

[twitter.com/chinookchs](https://twitter.com/chinookchs)

### Vision of the Society

“to promote a greater  
understanding of Canadian  
and Alberta history in  
Chinook Country for people  
of all ages.”

Chinook Country boundaries are  
from Olds to Nanton,  
from the British Columbia to  
Saskatchewan borders.



THE CALGARY  
FOUNDATION



Turner Valley, c. 1946; Courtesy David Finch

## A Petroleum Past: The Turner Valley Gas Plant National and Provincial Historic Site

David Finch

The Turner Valley Gas Plant National and Provincial Historic Site is the birthplace of the petroleum industry in Western Canada. This gas plant, the first in Canada, operated for 61 years – from 1914 to 1985. The gas plant removed impurities and pushed the fuel through pipelines to southern Alberta consumers. The 1914 discovery well – commonly called Dingman No. 1 - is within the boundaries of the historic site, and visitors can take pictures at the very spot where drillers discovered Western Canada's first commercial oilfield.

The claims to fame at this historic site are many: it was the first natural gas absorption plant in Canada, which was just the second in the world after the first was built in 1913 in Hastings, West Virginia. Petroleum products pipelining in Canada began at this oilfield, which

eventually shipped natural gas, gasoline-like liquids and crude oil to refineries in Calgary. It boasts the world's first high-pressure sour gas processing plant, which started removing deadly hydrogen sulphide from the natural gas in 1925. Canada's first high-pressure gasoline plant, dating to 1933, is at this site, as is Canada's first propane plant, going back to 1948. The second sulphur plant in Canada is here too, dating to June 1952 - Shell's nearby Jumping Pound sulphur plant went into operation in May, 1951. The latter is gone, however, so the oldest extant sulphur plant in Canada is at the Turner Valley Gas Plant site.

The Turner Valley oilfield itself spawned many institutions and associations that are central to our society today:

*Continued on Page 2*

the Alberta Energy Regulator, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, as well as the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists and APEGA – the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta. Our birthright petroleum has provided many important and challenging opportunities to the people of Alberta and Canada. The story of oil lives on.



Brady Stadnicki, Left, and Ray Wilkinson, Right  
Courtesy Ray Wilkinson

### The 2014 Elise Corbet Scholarship

Ray Wilkinson

On October 22, 2013, the University of Calgary Department of History Annual Awards Party

was held on campus. During the awards, the Chinook Country Historical Society presented its annual \$500.00 Elise Corbet Scholarship to Brady Stadnicki, from Jenner, Alberta. The award was presented on behalf of the Board by Ray Wilkinson. This scholarship is awarded to a senior undergraduate history major, who has taken at least two Canadian history courses, and earned the highest grades in these classes. Preference is given to students taking at least one course in Western Canadian history.

### President's Report

Sarah Harvey

The Chinook Country Historical Society had a very busy 2013 with 9 monthly programs at Fort Calgary, and over 60 events during Historic Calgary Week. Thousands attended these events, which were held in Calgary, as well as Morley, Bearsaw, Okotoks, Nanton, De Winton, Turner Valley, Cochrane and Airdrie. We finished the year with our annual Christmas Luncheon, held at Fort Calgary. The Scarborough United Church Choir entertained us with Music of Christmas Past as we enjoyed hot apple cider and a delicious lunch. We had another successful auction selling antique Christmas ornaments with proceeds going to Historic Calgary Week. A special thanks to program director Stutt Pottruff, and to Shona Gourlay for planning the luncheon. Thank you, also, to Donna Zwicker for all her hard work organizing the auction.

Calgary is excited to be participating in the Alberta Heritage School Fairs again this

year. The Heritage Fairs invite Alberta students grades 4 through 9 to choose their own historical, geographical or heritage topic. The students research, write and display their project in 3-dimensional displays, creative writing, and performance or audio-visual media. Calgary's Heritage School Fair will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2014 at the Mewata Armoury. For more information and to learn how you can get involved visit: [www.thepastisablast.ca](http://www.thepastisablast.ca).

2014 is an important year for history, marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the First World War. The Chinook Country Historical Society and Historic Calgary Week planning committees are already hard at work organizing events to mark this important centenary. Historic Calgary Week is 10 days of historic talks, tours and concerts, July 25 - August 4, 2014. For more details and updates on our 2014 programs, check out our website, or Like us on Facebook.

### Historical Society of Alberta Annual General Meeting - May 31 in Turner Valley

The meeting will include a tour of the Turner Valley Gas Plant Historic Site. More information about the day's events will come from the provincial office.

### Save the Date - May 14

For a Big Party at the Turner Valley Gas Plant National and Provincial Historic Site. Details are still to be announced, so bookmark [turnervalleygasplant.org](http://turnervalleygasplant.org) to stay tuned.

### Why a Museum at Turner Valley? David Finch

Resource development always follows four fundamental steps: discovery, production, processing, and distribution. So how can a museum at the Turner Valley Gas Plant answer questions that preoccupy us today? The oil industry has always involved gambles, risky technology, development challenges, and volatile commodity markets. A museum at the Turner Valley gas plant will tell all these stories and more, each of which is as relevant to the story of oil today as in 1914.

*David Finch will present The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Discovery of Oil in Turner Valley on May 13 at 7:30pm, in the Glenbow Museum.*

# Local History Crossword Puzzle

Solutions on Page 4

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
		9						10						
11						12						13		
14							15							
						16								
17		18						19	20		21			
								22						
23				24								25		26
27								28						
29						30						31		

## Across

1. Alderman, 1935-55, Social Credit MLA, 1944-63
6. See 1 Across
9. Winston Churchill's trademark
10. South west neighbourhood, \_\_\_\_\_ Slopes
11. WWI Battle of the \_\_\_\_\_
12. Educator and prominent public service figure; a life-long member of the Calgary Council of Women, \_\_\_\_\_ M. Johnson
13. Heard at the Humane Society?
14. George Kidd \_\_\_\_\_, a pioneer entrepreneur in the Calgary area
15. A reference; hint
17. A post-WWII defence organization based predominately in Northern Canada
19. Calgary's Jack \_\_\_\_\_ Hall
23. Seen outside the Air Museum in Nanton, a \_\_\_\_\_ bomber
25. An atom or molecule
27. The founder of Bankview, William \_\_\_\_\_, 1830-1919
28. Sir James Lougheed was one \_\_\_\_\_
29. Calgary's home of the Blues, the King \_\_\_\_\_
30. Master of humorous poetry, Ogden \_\_\_\_\_
31. Former leader of the Canadian Liberal party, Bob \_\_\_\_\_

## Down

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Christian Home School for Orphans and Needy Children
2. He brokered peace between the Blackfoot and the Cree; Father \_\_\_\_\_
3. Calgary's first neighbourhood
4. Now the Tsuu T'ina Nation, the \_\_\_\_\_
5. A popular park and landmark in Northwest Calgary (2 words)
6. One of the early electronics companies in the U.S. (Initials)
7. Cher's partner in the 70s, \_\_\_\_\_ Bono
8. Bob Edwards' opus, The Calgary \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words)
14. Chief Buffalo Child \_\_\_\_\_, aka Sylvester Long (2 words)
16. Pt. John George \_\_\_\_\_, the only Calgarian to be awarded the Victoria Cross in WWI
18. Changed the title \_\_\_\_\_
20. Commissioner of the NWMP, 1880-1886, Col. A.G. \_\_\_\_\_
21. MLA and Senator from 1993-2000, Ron \_\_\_\_\_
22. Flowers seen in the spring
24. A type of dwelling found in the American south-west
26. The language of the Viking

## 2013 Christmas Luncheon

Stutt Pottruff

Over 60 people gathered on December 7th for our annual luncheon. It was a great success. We were regaled royally by the One Accord Choir – led by Liz Paynter - who left us all in the Christmas spirit. We then sat down to a wonderful lunch of organic chicken; Fort Calgary has one of the best kitchens in Calgary. Our 2nd Annual Silent Auction then ensued, garnering \$686.00 for Historic Calgary Week, and exceeding last year's total. Special thanks to Christine Mueller, Yvonne Schmitz, David Ballard, and Ray Wilkinson for their vintage donations, and to Donna Zwicker, who collected the delightful offerings. Many thanks to the bidders, too. Look for a repeat of the silent auction fun in 2014, and remember us if you have any vintage decorations to donate!

### Crossword Solutions

Across Down

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Wilkinson  | 1. Woods       |
| 6. Rosie      | 2. Lacombe     |
| 9. Cigar      | 3. Inglewood   |
| 10. Shawnee   | 4. Sarcee      |
| 11. Somme     | 5. Nose Hill   |
| 12. Ethel     | 6. RCA         |
| 13. Yap       | 7. Sonny       |
| 14. Leeson    | 8. Eye Opener  |
| 15. Allusion  | 14. Long Lance |
| 17. NORAD     | 16. Pattison   |
| 19. Singer    | 18. Renamed    |
| 23. Lancaster | 20. Irvine     |
| 25. Ion       | 21. Ghitler    |
| 27. Nimmons   | 22. Irises     |
| 28. Senator   | 24. Adobe      |
| 29. Eddie     | 26. Norse      |
| 30. Nash      |                |
| 31. Rae       |                |

### Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for the Summer 2014 issue is **30 May**. Please email your articles and/or photos to Kirsten Varsek at [kdvarsek@gmail.com](mailto:kdvarsek@gmail.com).

### Volunteer Opportunities: Historic Calgary Week 2014

Get involved in this 10-day event boasting passionate volunteers and packed venues! We are currently looking to fill the following roles:

- **Media Contact**  
Fields media requests, conducts radio and television interviews;
- **Brochure Support**  
Collects information on the events, write/edits event synopses, organizes layout, etc;
- **Volunteer Coordinator**  
Organization of volunteers - recruits and contacts, creates schedules, prepares kits, organizes training session.

Call the Chinook Country Historical Society with your name and contact information at **403-261-4667**.

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

January 28

#### Women in Ranching

Rachel Herbert  
7:30pm, Fort Calgary

February 25

#### Almost a Great Escape and Other Stories

Tyler Trafford  
7:30pm, Fort Calgary

March 25

#### CCHS AGM and Deep Powder Steep Rock

Chic Scott  
5:00pm, Danish Canadian Club

April 22

#### Henry B. Steinhauer Portrait Painting

Professor Don Smith  
7:30pm, Glenbow Museum

May 13

#### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Discovery of Oil in Turner Valley

David Finch  
7:30pm, Glenbow Museum

### Yearly Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Membership \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_  
 Single Membership \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single Membership \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 and Alberta History Subscription  
 Alberta History Subscription \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Membership \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Membership \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 and Alberta History Subscription  
 Affiliate Membership \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (School, Museum, Library,  
 Historical Society)  
 and Alberta History Subscription  
 Associate Membership \$120.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Corporations and Foundations)  
 and Alberta History Subscription

I also wish to donate to:  
 Historic Calgary Week \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 HSA Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 CCHS Projects \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Educational Projects \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge to Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like an HSA  
 publication list? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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 PO Box 4035, Station C  
 Calgary AB  
 T2T 5M9

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiry \_\_\_/\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### CCHS Board Members

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