



OPI NEWSLETTER

THE VOICE OF THE ONTARIO OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

FALL 2019

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Encouraging responsible exploration and
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Ontario

ISSN 14802201

OPI elects new leadership

The Ontario Petroleum Institute (OPI) Board of Directors, at its November 15, 2019, meeting chose a new slate of officers. Mr. Jim McIntosh, Jim McIntosh Petroleum Engineering Ltd. was elected Chairman of the OPI for 2020.



Mr. McIntosh becomes the first Chairman selected under an amended set of OPI By-laws.

Also elected on November 15th:

Vice Chairman - Scott Lewis, Lagasco Inc.

Standing Committee Chairman:

Governance:	Jack Norman, Elexco Land Services, Ltd.
Finance:	Lonnie Barnes, Barnes Oil Co.
Regulatory:	Peter Rowe
Nominating:	Ben Barnes, Double B Well Service Ltd.
Conference:	Ian Colquhoun, Ian Colquhoun Consulting

The officers of the Ontario Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Corporation for 2020 are Jim McIntosh, Scott Lewis, Ian Colquhoun, Frank Kuri and Mike Hunter.

OPI Board of Directors

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Peter Rowe
Consultant
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David Thompson
Northern Cross Energy Limited
(403) 870-1524

OPI elects a new Board of Directors

At the Annual General Meeting held on November 7th and the Best Western Stoneridge Inn and Conference Centre the members elected a new Board of Directors for 2020.

Ben Barnes, Double B Well Services Ltd.; Ian Colquhoun, Consulting Geologist; Mike Dorland, Consulting Geologist; Frank Kuri, Consultant; Jim McIntosh, Jim McIntosh Petroleum Engineering Ltd.; and Peter Rowe were all elected for a two year term.

The following Board Members have agreed to fulfill the second year of their two year term: Lonnie Barnes, Barnes Oil Company; Dale Holland, Holland Testers Ltd.; Mike Hunter, Resource Link; Scott Lewis, Lagasco Inc.; Denis Marcus, Harold Marcus Limited; Jack Norman, Elexco Land Services, Ltd.; and Dave Thompson, Northern Cross Energy Limited.

At the AGM members agreed to major changes to the OPI By-laws in a series of amendments. The amendments initiated by the OPI Governance Committee after a review of the existing by-laws change the governance structure to bring the OPI in line with how it has been managed since 2013.

The AGM passed a motion to appoint Scrimgeour & Company, Chartered Accountant as auditor for the upcoming year.

Executive Directors Report

As 2019 winds its way to a close it's been an eventful few months for the OPI.

The OPI Board of Directors will have a new look for 2020 as a result of changes to the OPI By-laws at the Annual General Meeting held on November 7, 2019. The revamped structure established the position of Chairman (formerly President).

Congratulations to Jim McIntosh, elected as OPI Board of Directors Chairman for 2020.

The OPI Committees have been active in several areas. The Historic Producers Committee is scheduled to meet with the Ministry of Labour for a briefing on the various regulatory requirements affecting the industry.

The Producers Committee is involved in hearings at the Ontario Energy Board that have the potential to significantly impact the industry.

The Conference Committee is at the planning stage for EPEX 2020, OPI Conference and Trade Show. The Committee is considering a theme that involves energy, economics and climate change.

The Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Corporation (Corporation) prepared the 2020 Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Trust Business Plan at its regular meeting on November 15, 2019. It includes a significant project for the Oil, Gas and Salt Resource Library (Library) secured from the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). The Library has been contracted to provide services and data information on a GSC project through 2022.

The Business Plan will be presented to the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Trust Advisory Committee (TAC) for approval in December 2019.

The TAC currently has a vacancy with the resignation of Stephen Whan from K + S Windsor Salt, the salt solution member on the Committee. A replacement will be appointed by the Corporation in the New Year.

The OPI has met with the new Manager of the MNRF's Petroleum Operations Section, Susan Mancini, providing her with a briefing on the status of the industry and its challenges with new exploration and production.

I want to thank retiring director Kathy McConnell for her contribution to the Board and for her work on policy development with the OPI-MNRF Hydrocarbon Sector Working Group.

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Dale Holland for the effort and commitment he dedicated to serving the OPI during his three-year tenure as president.

I would like to acknowledge the 2019 OPI Board of Directors for their efforts during the past year. And I look forward to working with the 2020 Board on what is expected to be an interesting year ahead as we navigate a new governance structure that offers Directors an enhanced opportunity to develop policies to benefit the industry.

Please enjoy the Fall 2019 OPI Newsletter. You can contact me anytime at 519-630-4204 or hughmoran@ontariopetroleuminstitute.com

Hugh Moran, Executive Director

OPI Talking Points

OPI involved in Ontario Energy Board Hearing

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) initiated a consultation to review Enbridge Gas Inc.'s five-year natural gas supply plan earlier this year - EB-2019-0137 Consultation to Review Natural Gas Supply Plans –

The hearing afforded the OPI the opportunity to voice its views on the upstream sector's exploration and production of provincially produced natural gas, and that any increase in costs do not adversely affect the sector's ability to develop Ontario natural gas resources.

The OPI Submission filed on EB-2019-0137 was an appeal to the OEB to establish fair and reasonable terms on which producers are compensated for supply of natural gas into the Enbridge Gas Inc. distribution system.

OPI Report on Ontario Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Production

The OPI-MNRF Hydrocarbon Sector Working Group completed its work in 2019. The Working Group identified a list of “**industry discussion topics**” for review that included: suspended wells, inspector protocols, historic standards, well approval, well abandonment, and examiner protocols.

The OPI Report on Ontario Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Production with a list of recommendations was submitted to the MNRF in March. The OPI is optimistic that the recommendations will be implemented.

New Manager at Petroleum Operations

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has a new Manager of its Petroleum Operations Section in London. Susan Mancini assumed her new responsibilities in early September with the retirement of Sherry Pineo. Ms. Mancini was previously with Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services Branch of MNRF where she was the General Manager of Aviation Services and a Provincial Emergency Response Coordinator.

New OPI Members

We welcome the following new members to OPI: Susannah Robinson, EPCOR; Jug Manocha; Heather Gilpin, Lagasco Inc.; Logan Miller, Lagasco Inc.; Brett Authier, Lagasco Inc.; and Rob Holloway, Red Flame Industries.

Training

Check your H2S Alive ticket and advise Lorraine at the OPI office if you require this training so a course can be set up.

From the Newsroom

Canada needs a national tree-planting program

If a tree grows in a forest – Canada should launch a national tree-planting effort to help fight climate change

“Save our planet.”

Oh, how I loathe this phrase. How much damage has it already done? How much irrecoverable time has it squandered?

About four billion years ago, the Earth was a hellscape of half-solidified magma, and while I’m no planetary psychoanalyst, I believe it’s reasonable to speculate that it wasn’t worried. Our planet was a big, goopy ball, drifting lazily in space, feeling safe and content. If it didn’t need saving then, why would it now?

The truth is that it’s *us* who need saving. All 7.6 billion of us.

We have belched enough carbon into the atmosphere to actually alter the climate to which our ancestors perfectly adapted over millions of brutal, hardscrabble years. This carbon is heating our air, acidifying our oceans, supercharging our hurricanes and melting our glaciers and ice caps. According to NASA, we have already raised the average global temperature by 0.8 C since the Industrial Revolution (with two-thirds of this increase happening since 1976, the year of my birth). And if we warp our climate further? Crop yields will falter. Food systems will collapse. Vicious heat waves will kill the weakest among us. Our homes will flood. Our forests will burn. Our oceans will empty of life. And as a result, our children and grandchildren will suffer through lives unrecognizable from our own. Many of

them will die miserable, premature deaths, and it will all be our fault.

The planet? It won’t bat a tectonic plate.

This past July was the world’s hottest month ever in recorded history, and next July will most likely be hotter. As politicians pivot unrepentantly from flat-out climate-change denial toward scientifically laughable schemes to manage this threat or promise bold new initiatives while expanding pipelines with little plan of how our post oil society will actually function, our climate slouches toward disaster.

Although the clock is winding down, there has been a flurry of recent studies all indicating that there is one technology that could save us, or at the very least delay our ruin. A highly advanced, solar-powered automaton, one that captures carbon, protects watersheds, streams and rivers, increases its own mass incrementally each year, prevents soil erosion and desertification, manufactures a wonderfully biodegradable building material and even self-replicates.

They’re also quite fun to climb.

The latest estimate is that there were once six trillion trees on Earth. But after the Industrial Revolution sawed and scorched its way across the landscape, there are now three trillion. This is the climate equivalent of having one of the Earth’s lungs surgically removed and then expecting our atmosphere to run ultramarathons like it once did.

So how will replacing our missing lung save us? Well, trees trap carbon. Lots of carbon. And they will do this for hundreds if not thousands of years.

Canada as a country has already benefited incalculably from its forests, which have provided us with both resource prosperity as well as tourism dollars, not to mention that profound sense of well-being that a walk in the woods invariably yields. And we need more of them.

This is why I propose that we create a national, federally funded tree-planting effort, one that will blanket the country with viable, regionally appropriate trees, and one that will organize any person interested in fighting this war into one unified force.

Why would we do this? Because this is exactly how generations before us responded to their own existential threats: with bold initiatives, with citizen participation, with grit and sacrifice and work and determination. Because the climate emergency is our World War, our

Great Depression, and I'm humbly suggesting we do the same. Let's fight this war together. Not with guns and bullets, but with shovels and saplings.

"We're much too politically polarized and cynical for this kind of collective effort," skeptics will say. Well, I was raised in Thunder Bay, Ont., and many of my classmates are either currently working in the pulp and paper industry or are oil-patch workers. They work hard to provide for their families, and have been up to now unfairly demonized, even while they were filling our tanks with gas and our printers with paper. They feel their livelihoods threatened by any criticism of resource extraction, and I get that, but it's time for people of all political leanings to admit that we need each other. Because it will take every last one of us to win this war.

Ultimately, trees have no political affiliations. They are irrefutably positive organisms, and there is nothing that we will ever build or invent that can do what they do. So, can't we all agree that planting more is an undeniably good thing? Can't we think of trees as an army, our army, one that will protect our families and our society and our way of life?

"Too expensive!" other naysayers will insist. "And other countries won't follow suit, our planted trees will be a drop in the climate-change bucket." Well, Ethiopia, a country with much less material means than Canada, recently planted 224 million trees in a single day. And over the past year, craggy old Scotland has planted 22 million viable trees. So how are these cases for drops in the bucket?

It's not like we don't have sufficient numbers of workers to accomplish a large-scale reforestation that could inspire the world. Canada is teeming with foresters and biologists and tree planters. Just imagine how many trees we could actually put into the ground if we tried, and what a point of pride it could be for us all.

Of course, we could always just ignore this emergency by continuing to rage at the calculatedly divisive information that our screens inflict upon us daily. And next Canada Day, we can wave our leafy flags and snap photos of our happy families near our wooded rivers, lakes and ocean shores, believing that we're the people of the forest, without the guts to actually back this claim up.

Or, we could shut up, step up, lay aside our laziness and our cynicism and our political differences as those great generations did before us, and put some damn trees into the ground.

So please, if this idea strikes a chord with you, post on your Facebook wall, or your Instagram account, or just text it to a few friends (even write it in your private diary for all I care): *I'm ready to plant some trees*. And hopefully I'll see you out there someday soon. And by "out there," I don't mean while you are holding me at gunpoint as you loot my meagre turnip patch because you and your family haven't eaten for days. No, I mean at a government funded tree-planting camp. And at the very least we will be able to hold our heads high. Because like those great generations before us, we won't be hiding from our war, either.

Michael Christie is the author of Greenwood, a new novel about trees, which was recently longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Special to The Globe and Mail September 2019

How Kenney and Trudeau can find common ground

Edmonton and Ottawa feel even further apart than usual these days. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney has been increasingly combative and demanding with the federal government since last month's election. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has managed to appear both eager to reach out to alienated Alberta and Saskatchewan, and casually indifferent to the significant news that Calgary's Encana Corp. will change its name and move its headquarters to Denver.

The two also represent larger tensions in Canada right now, including whether you celebrate the oil industry's economic contributions to the country or are alarmed about the environmental costs, and whether you live in a city with new jobs and optimism about the future, or whether you are watching a parade of businesses and investment leave your town.

But at the risk of being a Pollyanna, Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Kenney might be able to find some near-term areas with common ground.

For instance, they could come together to support Indigenous investment in the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion.

The federal government bought the existing pipeline last year for \$4.4 billion, pledging to de-risk the expansion project and sell it – with the goal of reducing the country's near-total reliance on U.S. customers. The project still faces uncertainties in the form of court challenges, and protests at construction sites.

However, if a single measure could add gravitas to the project, it would be for Indigenous communities to have a financial stake.

Mr. Kenney seems fully on board, saying earlier this year that Indigenous buy-in for the expansion project would be a “game changer.” Ottawa hasn’t yet fully committed to the idea. But in August, before the election, the Liberals held a first round of consultations with Indigenous groups. Finance Minister Bill Morneau has said such an investment would be possible if conditions are met, including that the Indigenous communities have “meaningful economic participation,” and if a deal can proceed in the spirit of reconciliation.

Mr. Trudeau will never be able to sell his vision of supporting (and buying) the pipeline to West Coast First Nations, including the Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish. But some level of project ownership by and benefits to a large number of Indigenous groups in Western Canada — done the right way — could bring more money and economic power to those communities.

Secondly, Mr. Kenney might be able to make a strong case to Ottawa for lifting the \$60 per capita limit on Ottawa’s fiscal stabilization program, which helps provinces experiencing significant declines in their revenues due to extraordinary economic downturns. Alberta is in such a position.

Mr. Kenney says the cap is out of date, and a change could provide Alberta with more than \$1 billion in annual help rather than the \$252 million it is hoping to receive this year. Mr. Kenney argues that if equalization payments have no cap, why should stabilization. Mr. Kenney has said any more funding could be put towards “green job creation programs” such as cleaning up old oil and natural gas wells.

Legitimate concerns will be raised about whether oil well cleanup is “green,” and where this would leave the principle of “polluter pays.” But it feels like Mr. Kenney is offering something palatable to the federal Liberals. Ottawa displayed a willingness to step up in 2017, when it contributed \$30 million to Alberta’s efforts on well cleanup. And mopping up an environmental mess while paying workers in rural areas and small cities hit hard by the sharp decline in energy-sector activity might outweigh the negatives.

Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Kenney might be surprisingly close in other areas. For instance, Alberta’s new carbon pricing plan for large emitters is more robust than many expected. And the Alberta Premier is a fan of carbon

capture and storage projects that are for now mostly too expensive to be viable. But the Liberal government has showed openness to projects that suck carbon out of the air as a means to get Canada to carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Prime Minister will balance anything he does with his wish to see his party win back a majority someday — an outcome that will require better results in Quebec. Mr. Trudeau also says his focus on addressing climate change is unwavering. Mr. Kenney will continue to be the most powerful force in Canada’s conservative movement, to make a career of representing western economic interests and challenging central Canadian orthodoxy on energy policies.

So, the two will be foes for as long as they are in politics. But a bit of working together on some files, or at least not to get in each other’s way, could move everyone ahead.

*Kelly Cryderman, CALGARY
Globe and Mail
November 2019*

Now can we have an adult conversation about Canada’s energy future and its economy?

The big winner in the recent federal election was clearly climate change. The streets were clogged with marchers, and the parking lots were full of the SUVs, vans and pickup trucks that delivered many of the protesters. Therein lies the challenge of taking action on climate change. Canadians are demanding action, but ask most people what they are doing for climate change, and a frequent response is “recycling?” Ask what they are willing to pay, and the answer from most is “less than \$100.” Ask what they think of our energy sector, and the majority say they support a low-carbon economy, the TMX pipeline and responsible energy development.

Canadians want action and, although they aren’t clear what precisely that means, they are clear on who needs to take it — government, big business and the financial sector. And they are right. It’s going to take an uncommon level of collaboration to come up with a means of re-engineering our energy-intensive economy in a manner that meets global environmental goals and maintains the high standard of living that Canadians enjoy.

But they are also wrong because Canadians are among the largest energy consumers and carbon producers on Earth — think twice as much as the average European. It

is we who are driving climate change by our unsustainable use of fossil fuels. So personal action that involves more than marching is required – involving changing consumer choices and behaviours that will hit the pocketbook.

It's not going to be easy, but it can be done. The report of the non-partisan Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance released last June and a report issued last week by the Business Council of Canada, *A Better Future for Canadians*, both contain practical recommendations on how to do this. Here are three climate-related priorities – supported by both reports – that require collaboration and should be acted on immediately.

1) Develop an inspirational vision for a low-carbon economy for Canada and a road map of how to get there. How can we act if we don't know where we're going? Who knows what a commitment of "net-zero emissions by 2050" actually means to the economy? Developing a set of milestones that transcend election cycles will provide a focus for public and private spending priorities. It will help Canadians understand where the jobs of the future will be. The vision must inspire so that it drives people to act – climate change is not only a challenge, it's also a tremendous economic opportunity.

2) Settle the question of how our oil and gas resources will contribute to our future. The oil and gas industry contributes significantly to a standard of living that benefits all Canadians. The growing global population means that energy use is going to increase, and even by 2070, close to half is likely to be provided by high-value products derived from fossil fuels. As one of a handful of democratically run countries producing oil and gas, why shouldn't Canada benefit by being the purveyor of the cleanest oil and gas in the world – and the developer, owner and exporter of the technology that will make this possible? This will increase our economic productivity and position us as a global clean-tech leader. Just look at Norway, it uses its oil and gas resources to fight climate change – Canada should do the same or better.

3) Invest in "transition financing" that moves capital flow into low-carbon innovation. "Sustainable green financing" should include "transition financing," where "brown industries," such as the natural-resource and manufacturing sectors, invest in innovation that significantly reduces their carbon footprint. Canada is one of only 11 countries that has a AAA credit rating from all three international credit-rating agencies and we have a world-class financial-services industry. We

should leverage this advantage by issuing made-in-Canada "Green Transition Bonds."

Updating our tax system can provide powerful tools for transition. Incentives can be provided to companies through targeted tax credits or grants. With our heavily resource-weighted stock exchanges, institutional investors should invest in those companies that take action to significantly reduce their carbon footprint. Retail investors have a role to play here, too – by investing their RRSP and TFSA funds in companies that are transitioning to a low-carbon business model, ideally with incentives such as increased contribution limits as has been suggested by the Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance.

The election is over. It's time to stop pointing fingers and get to work – all of us.

Karen Clarke-Whistler is a principal at ESG Global Advisory Services. Peter van Dijk is the National Tax Policy Leader at PwC Canada and a Senior Fellow at the C.D. Howe Institute.

*Contributed to The Globe and Mail
November, 2019*

Finding the right balance in the oil patch

Canada needs higher crude prices, and that means pipelines

The top executives of three oil-sands companies took the newsworthy step on Thursday of publishing an open letter asking Canadians to keep the health of the energy industry in mind when they vote in the federal election in October.

Their message wasn't subtle – a weak oil economy threatens the very soul of Canada, they said. It's something that has become a common refrain in Alberta.

The letter, which took the form of a full-page ad placed in newspapers (including this one) across the country, entreated voters to urge "Canada's leaders of all political stripes to help our country thrive by supporting an innovative energy industry."

The leaders of Cenovus, Canadian Natural Resources and MEG Energy warned that the choice voters make "will impact our ability to fund schools, hospitals, parks and social programs that we as Canadians so deeply value."

Their message echoes the words of Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, who said in [a tweet this week that](#), “If other provinces and federal politicians want Alberta’s prosperity to keep paying the bills, building roads, schools, and hospitals across Canada, then you have to let us develop our resources, get them to market, and get a fair price for them.”

Mr. Kenney’s argument is that, because Albertan taxpayers contribute a net \$20-billion to the federal government every year in income and sales tax, the rest of the country is reliant on them to fund social programs.

There’s some truth to that, although Mr. Kenney’s contention that Albertans send more to Ottawa than they get back in federal transfers elides some key facts. For instance, most federal transfers other than equalization are based on population, which means the largest provinces – Quebec and Ontario – automatically receive way more money than Alberta.

Plus, while it’s true that the average Albertan is paying more in federal income taxes and the GST, that’s because they live in a relatively prosperous economy and are earning and spending more than people in other, less well-to-do provinces. They’re paying more in taxes because they have bigger paycheques, not because Alberta is subject to some special federal levy targeting the province.

Finally, the fact that Alberta has a large deficit caused by the current slump in oil prices, and which is making it hard for Mr. Kenney’s government to pay for school, hospitals and social programs, is not the fault of the federal government.

Instead, Alberta long ago decided to be the only province without a provincial sales tax, while relying on royalties tied to the price of natural resources to make up the difference between low income-tax revenues and relatively high spending.

All that said, there are good reasons for Canadians across the country to wish for a healthy energy industry in Alberta, and to work for that.

It is a huge job creator, providing work for people from every province, including many where employment isn’t easy to come by.

It creates wealth, which makes Canadians richer and better off. And it provides government revenues in the form of federal and provincial royalties, income taxes and sales taxes that do indeed contribute to social-program spending.

But today that has to be weighed against the harms of climate change, and for the need for Canada to meet its carbon-emissions goals under the Paris Agreement. In spite of serious efforts by oil-sands companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, they are still the single biggest source of emissions in the country.

What everyone should want – from oil executives to people in other provinces – is higher prices for exported Canadian oil. That puts money in everyone’s pockets, without necessarily increasing emissions.

The one and only way to achieve that is for Alberta producers to get their crude to tidewater, or across the border. That means pipelines, in particular the Trans Mountain expansion that the Trudeau government is trying to stickhandle into existence.

A vibrant oil industry is a good thing for Canada. Efforts to cut emissions, through carbon taxes, regulations and new technologies, are also necessary – for Canada, and the world. As long as the world uses oil, Canada should continue to produce it, even as we bring in policies to discourage its use, or make it cleaner. It’s a tricky balance.

*Editorial
Globe and Mail
August, 2019*



May the Christmas season
fill your home with
family and friends,
your heart with love,
& your life with laughter.



May this season bring
you success
good times & enjoyment!

Merry Christmas

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Upcoming Events

Conference Committee Meeting

December 4, 2019

OPI Boardroom

TAC Meeting

December 12, 2019

OPI Boardroom

Board of Director's Meeting

January 17, 2020

OPI Boardroom



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