

# The Canadian Petroleum Discovery Centre


In 1947 the Canadian oil industry was changed dramatically when Leduc #1 discovered oil in Devonian dolomites. Imperial Oil, the company that drilled the Leduc wells, had drilled 133 dry holes in a row and was desperately in need of a domestic source of hydrocarbons for its refineries. The Leduc wells opened up a whole new exploration play by proving that commercial, hydrocarbon-bearing Devonian reefs were present in Western Canada. Ten years after the Leduc discoveries, Alberta's oil production had escalated from 6.7 million bbl/year to 144 million bbl/year and the number of wells in production rose from 523 to over 7400. This discovery was of immense importance to Canada, which in 1947 was importing 82% of its petroleum needs from the US.

The Canadian Petroleum Discovery Centre (CPDC) commemorates the Leduc discoveries and tells the story of the evolution of an industry that impacts every aspect of our lives: how we live, how we travel, how we eat, our medicines and even our dress. The historical society that owns and operates this unique museum/science centre has also acquired the infamous Atlantic #3 disaster site and has successfully had it recognized as a Provincial Historic Site.

The Centre is located 2km south of Devon, Alberta, at the very location of the Leduc #1 National Historic Site. 13 acres outdoors and 23,000 sq.ft. indoors of exhibits and educational

programming show the gamut of the world of oil and gas from exploration to finished products.

The 60th anniversary of the Leduc #1 discovery was celebrated on February 13th, 2007 at the CPDC. This was an opportunity for invited guests to hear about Project Discovery, a campaign to raise \$6.4 million for an expanded centre with new exhibits. A new addition to the building has been built with \$1.4 million from the Alberta Lotteries Fund and 2005 Centennial Legacies Program, while corporate sponsorship has already furnished some exhibits on various aspects of the oil industry. The role of geophysics in the energy industry is a story that has to be expanded. The planned exhibit Finding Hidden Treasure will describe the role of geophysical methods in exploration for hydrocarbons. CSEG members with any historic instruments suitable for display are invited to contact the centre.

For more information contact John Boyd or Lorne Larson. Visit the website at [www.LeducNumber1.com](http://www.LeducNumber1.com) 



The Canadian Petroleum Discovery Centre is at the site of the Leduc #1 National Historic Site.



The present seismic display.



Some new displays in preparation for Project Discovery.