

Kamloops Museum and Archives



Royalite Refinery Collection

2017.022

Compiled by
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KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

2017.022

Royalite Refinery Collection

[ca. 1950s]-1997
0.30 meters

Access: Open.

Textual, Graphic, Objects

Title: Royalite Refinery Collection

Dates of Creation: [ca. 1950s]-1997

Physical Description: 25 cm of textual records, ca. 125 photographs, ca. 50 negatives, 1 object

Administrative History:

Royalite Oil Company was established in 1921, with the merger and reorganization of Imperial Oil and Calgary Petroleum Products. The Royalite Oil Company drilled wells, searched for natural gas sources, and purchased oil fields throughout British Columbia and Alberta from the 1920s to 1950s, and quickly became a leader in the market. Construction of a new oil refinery operation in Kamloops, BC began in 1952, under the direction of President and Managing Director C.U. Daniels. Design and construction of the facility was conducted by Columbia Engineers Limited of Calgary. The refinery became operational in 1954, and acted as a crucial hub in transporting and refining oil along the Trans Mountain Oil Pipe Line between Vancouver, B.C. and Edmonton, Alberta. Modern facilities established in Kamloops included a crude oil distillation unit (producing gasoline, burner oils, tractor distillate, diesel, and bunker "C" type fuels) and a catalytic cracking unit. The Royalite Oil Company was active in the community, sponsoring many sporting teams and hosting competitions. Royalite's expansion in Western Canada continued until 1962, when it was bought out by British American Oil.

British American Oil was founded in 1906 by Albert Leroy Ellsworth in Toronto, Ontario and was organized with a Province of Ontario Charter. The company began by opening refineries, and expanded into Quebec and other provinces, establishing a regional headquarters in Winnipeg after buying the Winnipeg Oil Company in 1920 and later entering the US in 1924 with the Toronto Pipeline Company. British American Oil bought out the Royalite Oil Company in 1962, and continued to expand and manage their operations in Western Canada until the full amalgamation with Royalite and Shawnigan Chemicals under the name Gulf Oil Canada Ltd in 1969.

Gulf Oil Canada Ltd. was established in 1969, when Royalite, British American Oil, and Shawnigan Chemicals amalgamated to give Gulf Oil a controlling interest in the company. Gulf Oil would continue to operate in Western Canada, and was the second largest producer of oil and the largest holder of natural gas reserves in Canada. In 1978 the company was rebranded as Gulf Canada Ltd., and has operated under the name Phillips 66 Canada since 2001.

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Petro-Canada was founded as a Crown Corporation in Calgary, Alberta in 1975 by an act of Parliament, under Pierre Trudeau's Liberal government. Despite initial hostility from existing oil firms and competing political parties, the company grew to become a symbol of Canadian nationalism and one of the largest companies in Western Canadian oil production and Eastern Canadian offshore oil field management. During the 1980s Petro-Canada distanced itself from the political sphere to compete successfully with private sector oil companies. In 1990 the company was privatized, but the government retained a 19% stake in the company until 2004. Petro-Canada merged with Suncor in 2009 to become a subsidiary company.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records related to the Royalite Oil Refinery in Kamloops, BC, which was later owned by the British-American Oil Company and Gulf Oil before closing in 1982. Records include corporate manuals, reports, blueprints, photographs of the site, surrounding Kamloops area and Tranquille Sanitorium, a company scrapbook, and personal memorabilia from the donor.

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Notes:

Source of supplied title: Title based on contents of fonds.

Arrangement: Order that fonds arrived in was maintained by the archivist. Records have been grouped into series, based on content type.

Treatment Note: Materials from Series 1 have been removed from binders (2017.022.001.003 and 2017.022.001.005). Loose photos from Corporate Scrapbook have been removed and placed in envelopes on their corresponding pages. Photos from 2017.022.003.004 were removed from frames.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access. The archivist reserves the right to restrict access to any fragile material for preservation purposes.

Terms governing use and reproduction: No reproduction permitted without consent of copyright holder. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission for the reproduction of materials for publication or dissemination.

Finding aids: File list is available for this collection.

Accruals: Further accruals are possible.

Related Materials: See Artifact Collection for a wood and metal Kamloops Refinery sign, donated with this accession.

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Series 1: Corporate Documents

1955-1985 — 22 cm of textual records.

Scope and Content: Series contains publications from the American Petroleum Institute and operational manuals, publications from corporate office, and reports.

| Accession | Description | Dates | Box/Folder |
|------------------|--|-----------|------------|
| 2017.022.001.001 | Crude Manual | 1955 | 1/1 |
| 2017.022.001.002 | Gulf Commentator Presents: The New Sign in Your Future | 1969 | 1/2 |
| 2017.022.001.003 | Hydrofluoric Acid Alkylation Unit Report | 1969 | 1/3 |
| 2017.022.001.004 | Technical Data API Specifications | 1964-1981 | 1/4 |
| 2017.022.001.005 | Description of Kamloops Processing Facilities | 1985 | 2/1 |

Series 2: Blueprints

[ca. 1950s]-1977 — 2 cm of textual records.

Scope and Content: Series contains blueprints of the refinery and machinery.

| Accession | Description | Dates | Box/Folder |
|------------------|---|-------------------|------------|
| 2017.022.002.001 | Critical Path for FCUU Startup | [ca. 1950s-1960s] | 2/2 |
| 2017.022.002.002 | Flow Diagram Crude Unit – Area “C” | 1954 | 2/3 |
| 2017.022.002.003 | FCCU Oil and Steam Flows – Startup, Circulation, and Normal Run | 1967 | 2/4 |

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|------------------|--|------|-----|
| 2017.022.002.004 | Plot Plan – Tank Farm Foam and Hydrant Systems | 1977 | 2/5 |
|------------------|--|------|-----|

Series 3: Photographs

1953-1983 — ca. 100 b&w photographs, 2 colour photographs, ca. 50 b&w negatives

Scope and Content: Series contains negatives and photographs of the refinery, Tranquille Sanatorium, and surrounding areas of Kamloops.

| Accession | Description | Dates | Box/Folder |
|------------------|---|------------|------------|
| 2017.022.003.001 | Mrs. J. McElgienn [includes aerial and ground b&w negatives of the refinery, Kamloops North Shore, Westsyde, helicopters, and construction] | [ca. 1957] | 2/6 |
| 2017.022.003.002 | Sentinel photos [includes aerial and ground b&w photographs of the refinery, crews, and surrounding areas of Kamloops. Most photographs identified as being taken by Frank Johnson] | 1953-1956 | 3 |
| 2017.022.003.003 | C. Hay and Party [includes b&w photographs of the refinery and a group touring the site] | 1964 | 2/7 |
| 2017.022.003.004 | Spring 1983 [includes two colour photographs of the refinery] | 1983 | 2/8 |

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Series 4: Ephemera and Objects

[ca. 1950s]-1997 — 1 cm of textual records, ca. 25 b&w photographs, 1 object

Scope and Content: Series contains company scrapbook, a Gulf Oil patch, and Victor Newman's certificates.

| Accession | Description | Dates | Box/Folder |
|------------------|--|-------------------|------------|
| 2017.022.004.001 | Gulf Oil patch | [ca. 1960s-1970s] | 2/9 |
| 2017.022.004.002 | Victor Newman's Certificates | 1981-1997 | 2/10 |
| 2017.022.004.003 | Royalite Oil Company Scrapbook [includes newspaper clippings, reports, letters, and photographs] | [ca. 1950s-1960s] | 3 |