

and development activity was spread throughout many areas of the province, and a significant new gas-bearing trend was outlined in the Dunvegan - Belloy area north of Grande Prairie in west-central Alberta.

Interest in Alberta's Athabasca tar sands is increasing because of a tightening world crude oil supply situation and the prospect of higher crude oil prices. Alberta's only recovery plant, which is operated by Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited at Fort McMurray, averaged 42,000 b/d during 1971. Syncrude Canada Ltd. received approval to raise the capacity of its proposed plant in the Fort McMurray area to 125,000 b/d of synthetic crude oil and 5,500 b/d of residual fuel oil. It is scheduled for completion in 1976. Experimental projects were also started to evaluate thermal methods for the in situ recovery of oil from the Athabasca tar sands and the extensive heavy oil deposits in the Cold Lake area of east-central Alberta.

A total of 1,990 wells were drilled, an increase of 166 over 1970. Development footage increased by 8% to 3,585,434 ft while exploratory footage declined 3% to 4,300,181 ft.

**Saskatchewan.** Drilling activity continued to decline in Saskatchewan as exploratory drilling decreased 3% to 1,053,283 ft and development drilling declined 32% to 954,226 ft. Nevertheless, interest in natural gas remained high as gas well completions rose substantially, mainly from development drilling in west-central and southwestern Saskatchewan, particularly around the Hatton field. Most of the oil development drilling continued to be in the heavy oil area around Lloydminster and in the medium-gravity oil fields of southwestern Saskatchewan.

**British Columbia.** Total footage drilled in British Columbia increased by 6% to 950,295 ft because of small increases in both exploratory and development drilling. A promising dual zone gas discovery was reported at the Home et al. Attachie 7-29 site located 25 miles northeast of Fort St. John. Other potential gas discoveries were reported along the Devonian Slave Point trend near the northern British Columbia boundary. Development drilling continued around existing oil fields in the Fort St. John area but no new producing trends were discovered.

**Manitoba.** Industry activity in the province continued to decline for lack of new discoveries. Total footage drilled dropped to 32,428 feet in 1971 from 54,726 feet in 1970. Oil well development drilling was confined to the margins of existing fields. There is no gas production in Manitoba.

**Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories and Arctic Islands.** The pace of exploratory effort in the territories and the Arctic Islands quickened during 1971 and was rewarded by several significant oil and gas discoveries. In the Mackenzie Delta area, Imperial Oil Limited's exploration program has so far yielded two oil finds on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and two gas-condensate strikes on Richards Island in the Mackenzie Delta. Two of these discoveries were made in 1971. Early in 1972, Imperial Oil made another significant gas discovery on Richards Island, nine miles northeast of the gas discovery they had made in the previous year. Drilling in the area is being accelerated to more fully evaluate its reserve potential and will include the first experimental use of man-made islands for drilling platforms in the shallow delta waters.

In the Arctic Islands, Panarctic Oils Ltd. continued to dominate the exploration picture and was rewarded by another natural gas discovery at Kristoffer Bay on Ellef Ringnes Island. This is the third natural gas discovery made by Panarctic in the Arctic Islands since it began its exploratory program four years ago. The two previous discoveries, the first on Melville Island in 1969 and the second late in 1970 on King Christian Island, are considered to be major fields. Early in 1972, Panarctic made the first oil discovery in the Arctic Islands on the Fosheim Peninsula of Ellesmere Island. Although this find was not commercial, it does point up a potential for oil in the Sverdrup Basin. Total drilling, all exploratory, increased in 1971 to 76 wells (468,016 feet) from 70 wells (361,710 ft) in 1970.

**Eastern Canada.** The most significant discovery to date in the exploration of eastern Canadian off-shore areas was made in 1971 on Sable Island, approximately 190 miles east-southeast of Halifax, NS. The discovery tested substantial amounts of oil, gas and condensate from 17 different productive zones. Follow-up drilling to this discovery was scheduled for 1972 to determine if commercial production can be established. Since 1968, 30 exploratory wells have been drilled off the east coast of Nova Scotia, several of which had non-commercial indications of oil and gas.