

## Early Oil History - Hugh Nixon Shaw

**Title Text:** Early Oil History: Hugh Nixon Shaw  
Excerpt from "The Spark that Ignited the World" on display at the Oil Museum of Canada



[An image of Hugh Nixon Shaw is displayed. A video shows an actor jumping up and down on a spring pole, then hammering a peg and sitting beside an oil well.]

[*Music*]

**Narrator:** Seems everyone around him is getting rich, while he drills deeper and deeper on his one measly acre, with nary a drop of oil to show for it. The poor man's been jumping on his spring-pole for months, pounding into the rock. They laugh at crazy Shaw. His cash and credit are long, long gone. Yesterday, he couldn't even get the credit for a pair of shoes. Just one more day, he said this morning. If I don't get anything today, I'm packing it in.



[An actor sits at the side of a well. Oil gushes straight upwards as the actor looks on in excitement. Oil rushes onto the ground.]

**Man:** "It was about 10 o'clock on Friday morning at 158 feet from the surface. The oil was struck and it came rushing up with a will. Not giving time for the workmen to gather their implements, filling the well in 15 minutes and shooting up a column of oil some 20 feet in the air. And hundreds of barrels of oil were flowing around the well, over the road, and into the creek. And so it continued day and night until Monday morning."

**Text:** Project funded by  
Ontario Ministry of Culture  
Cultural Spaces Canada

Production by  
Avolution Multimedia