

Lieutenant Governor's Award

Mr. Charles Fairbank III, Oil Springs, Ontario

Known as "Charlie" to his friends, Mr. Fairbank has worked tirelessly to protect and promote a unique piece of Canada's industrial heritage: the First Commercial Oil Field National Historic Site, at Oil Springs, Ontario. The world's longest-producing oil company, it still operates using the original "Jerker-Line" pumping technology developed by Mr. Fairbank's great-grandfather in 1863. Today, Fairbank Oil Properties produces approximately 24,000 barrels of oil per year from 350 wells on 600 acres.

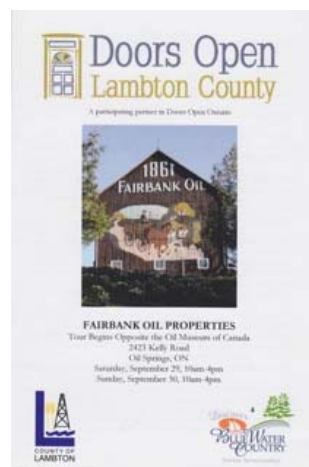
It was Mr. Fairbank's use of the historically accurate pumping system, his dedication to preserving his great-grandfather's legacy and his advocacy for heritage protection that led to the designation of Fairbank Oil and the greater Oil Heritage District as Ontario's only working industrial-based Heritage Conservation District in 2010.

Mr. Fairbank has been a national and international champion of Oil Springs and Petrolia as the location of the world's first commercial oil field, whose drilling and pumping technology quickly spread to the United States and later to oil fields around the world, giving birth to the global petroleum industry.



Mr. Fairbank runs Canada's oldest petroleum hardware shop, Van Tuyl & Fairbank Hardware in Petrolia, which continues to provide obscure oil production equipment essential to the viability of Ontario operators. He is also a founder of Petrolia Discovery, a working museum of petroleum history, and is a constant financial supporter and partner with the Oil Museum of Canada.

Mr. Fairbank's enthusiasm for protecting industrial heritage has been recognized by a number of organizations over the years. He has been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Ontario Lieutenant Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award for Heritage, the Petroleum History Institute's Samuel T. Pees Keeper of the Flame Award and the Petroleum History Society of Alberta's Lifetime Achievement Award. He has also been inducted into the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame.



Mr. Fairbank is a published author who has written and sponsored a number of publications about the Canadian oil industry. In 2002, he co-wrote the Oil Heritage Tour of Lambton County: The Birthplace of the Canadian Oil Industry.

Mr. Charles Fairbank III is passionate about preserving Oil Springs and is currently advocating for the Oil Heritage District's inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Mr. Fairbank was nominated by Ian McGillivray, principal of McGillivray-Architect.

