

## **The Montney – A World Class Resource with a Myriad of Challenges and Opportunities**

Dave Russum\*, AJM Petroleum Consultants  
Calgary, Alberta  
drussum@ajmpc.com

The lower Triassic Montney formation is one of the most enigmatic formations in the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. It has the whole spectrum of rocks from highly porous and permeable coquinas, through sands and siltstones, to very low porosity, tight, shales so that it truly spans the range of conventional and unconventional reservoirs.

The Montney is centred on the Peace River area of northwestern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia and covers an area approximately 600kilometres long and up to 250kilometres wide. It occurs at depths varying from 1000 to 4500metres and has a thickness ranging from zero at the eastern subcrop edge to a maximum thickness of 300metres near the BC border before thinning further west.

Where porosity is developed it can be filled with oil, liquids-rich gas, dry gas or water. To the west the rock is in a 'deep basin' setting such that any porosity is hydrocarbon charged. It can produce oil or gas at rates that make investors drool or at rates to make a geologist cry.

This paper will provide a historical perspective of oil and gas activity in the Montney and how it has become the poster child for oil and gas activity in Western Canada during the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.