

## **CORE-STORAGE PROGRAM, 1988**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In 1979, the Newfoundland Department of Mines started a drill-core collection and storage program. The objective of this ongoing program is to provide well-maintained and representative collections of drill core from as many drilling programs as possible. This material would be made available, upon request, to the mineral exploration industry, government, university geoscientists and other geotechnical professionals, for further analyses and research.

This report summarizes activities during 1988, and presents an overview of the operations of the core-storage program.

### **DRILL-CORE ACQUISITION**

During 1988, drill-core acquisition continued in insular Newfoundland; a total of 420,983 m of drill-core samples were added to the collection. Most of this core, 406,427 m, was acquired from the former Buchans co-tenancy of ASARCO-Abitibi-Price, and is from mine exploration drilling and other mineral exploration projects in the Red Indian Lake area. All this core material has been moved into the Buchans core library and carefully stacked on core-storage racks. The core material has been catalogued and a complete listing is presently being prepared for publication. In addition to the above, another 10,476 m of drill-core samples were delivered to our core libraries by exploration companies for confidential storage, and 4,080 m were collected by project personnel. Altogether, approximately 667,783 m of drill-core samples are now being stored in buildings operated by the Department.

A catalogue of all open core samples in Department of Mines core libraries is available from the Publications and Information Section of the Geological Survey Branch, Newfoundland Department of Mines.

### **DRILL-CORE LIBRARIES**

The Department of Mines now operates six core libraries located at St. John's, Buchans, Springdale, Baie Verte, Pasadena and Goose Bay (Figure 1).

The St. John's library is staffed on a full-time basis except during the field season. It is equipped with a rock saw, a stereomicroscope, a magnetic susceptibility meter, a resistivity meter, an ultraviolet light and a McPhar TV-1 scintillometer.

The Goose Bay core library, which contains drill core from Labrador only, is not staffed full-time. It has facilities similar to, and shares equipment with, the St. John's core library.

The Pasadena core library is staffed full-time, has equipment similar to that of the St. John's library, and includes a ventilated room for storing radioactive core and a humidity-controlled room for storing salt core. The Pasadena building is filled to capacity with only a little working space made available for new core by moving some 'low priority' drill core outside the building for continued storage.

The Springdale library is operated by the resident Pasadena geologist from the Pasadena core library on an appointment basis only. It has a core splitter and a rock saw, but shares other geotechnical equipment with the Pasadena core library.

The Buchans core library contains drill-core samples from drilling undertaken by ASARCO and Abitibi-Price during the years these companies were active in mining and mineral exploration in Buchans and surrounding areas. This core library is not as yet fully operational, since it does not contain an office/core examination area and does not have staff assigned to it. Drillhole logs, location maps and other data on core in the Buchans library are being assembled in Pasadena, and from April 1989, all visits to the Buchans core library will be handled by staff from the Pasadena core library on an appointment basis.

The Department recently acquired a building in Baie Verte, suitable for use as a core-storage library. It is expected that this building will become operational during 1989 and will serve to store drill-core samples acquired from drilling projects on the Baie Verte Peninsula; this core library will also be managed from Pasadena.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

During 1989, the core-storage libraries at Buchans and Baie Verte will become operational. Publication of a catalogue of drill-core samples in the Buchans core library will be completed early in 1989 and inspection of core samples in the building will be possible at the start of the 1989 field season.

Despite space problems in the Pasadena and Springdale core libraries, storage of confidential core in these buildings

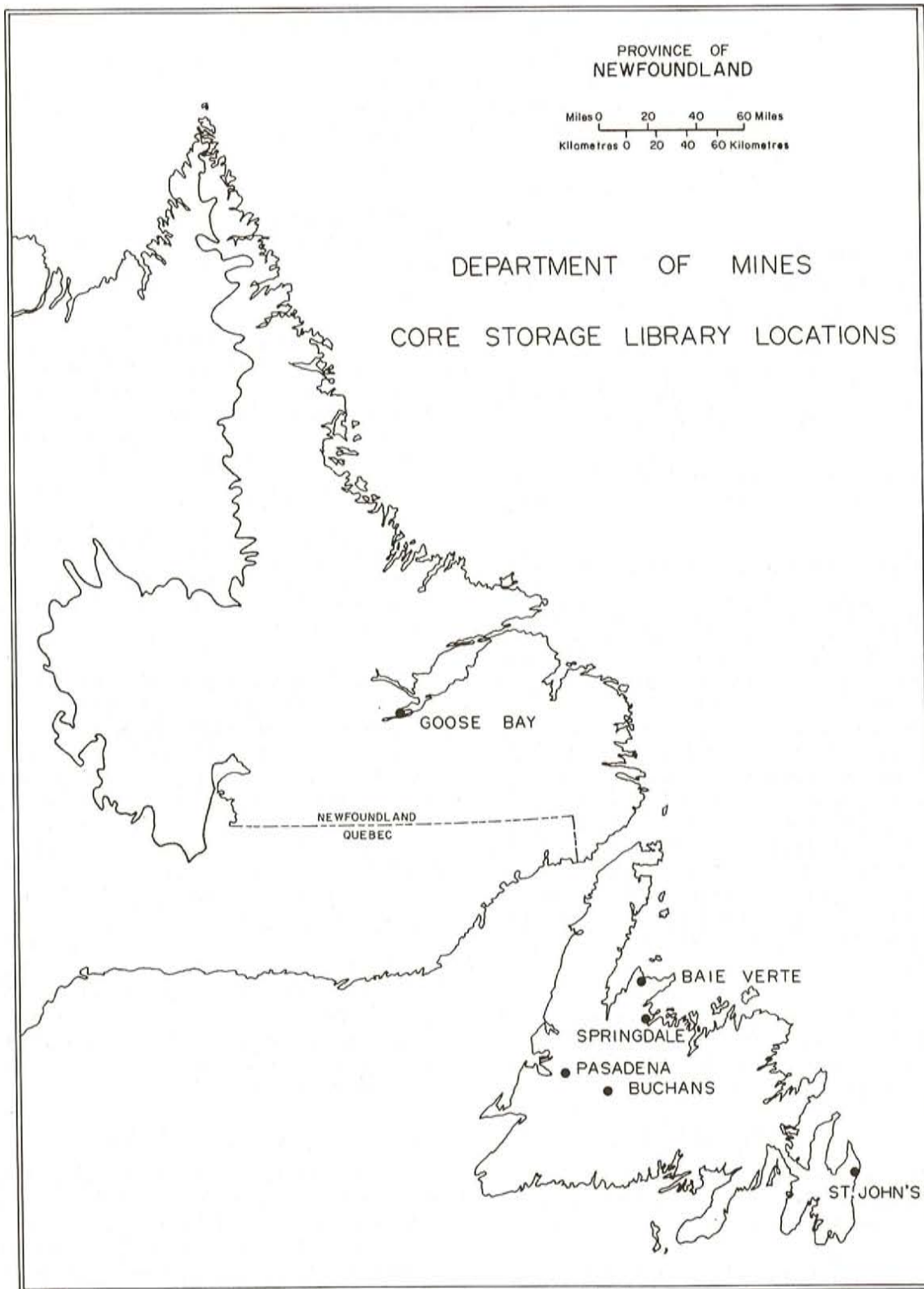


Figure 1. Core libraries in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

is permitted. However, the rapid growth of core collections in all the Department core libraries and the continued high level of mineral exploration drilling, necessitates that the size of some core-sample collections must be reduced. The Department has doubled the number of core libraries it

operates from three to six during the last two and a half years, whereas the size of its core collections has almost quadrupled. During 1989, reduction of some core-sample collections in the Pasadena core library will proceed.