

CORE-STORAGE PROGRAM, 1989

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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, for the future use of the mineral exploration industry, government, university geoscientists and other geotechnical professionals.

This report summarizes activities during 1989, and presents an overview of the operations of the core-storage program.

DRILL-CORE ACQUISITION

During 1989, drill-core acquisition continued in insular Newfoundland; a total of 8000 m of drill-core samples were added to the collection. Most of these core samples, were delivered to the core libraries by exploration companies for confidential storage, and 1767 m were collected by government project personnel. Approximately 675,783 m of drill-core samples are now being stored in buildings operated by the Department of Mines and Energy.

In Labrador, all the core samples, 1808 m, from Kennco Explorations Limited's 1959 drilling program in the Seal Lake area, were collected from the Whisky Lake Camp and prepared for transportation to Goose Bay during 1990.

DRILL-CORE LIBRARIES

The Department of Mines and Energy now operates six core-storage 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 core from Labrador, is not staffed on a full-time basis. It has facilities similar to, and shares equipment with, the St. John's core library.

The Pasadena core library is staffed on a full-time basis. This library has equipment similar to the St. John's library, and is equipped with a ventilated room for storing radioactive core, and a humidity-controlled room for storing moisture-sensitive core samples. The Pasadena building has almost reached its capacity. A little working space has been made available for additional drill core by moving some 'low priority' drill core outside the building.

The purchase of claim tags is now possible at the Pasadena core library and updated sections of all claims maps are available from the Pasadena core library, by facsimile machine from St. John's. The facility also serves as the summer headquarters for the quarry inspector responsible for the western region of insular Newfoundland and for Labrador.

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 facilities with the Pasadena core library.

The Buchans core library contains core samples from drilling undertaken by ASARCO and Abitibi-Price during the years the companies were active in mining and mineral exploration in Buchans and surrounding areas. This core library is not yet fully operational as 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 handled by staff from the Pasadena core library, on an appointment basis. Construction of an office and laboratory complex in the Buchans core-storage library is scheduled for completion in the spring of 1990 and this facility will then be fully operational.

A core-storage building has been acquired in Baie Verte. Construction of core-storage racks and renovations to the office area in this building are scheduled for completion in the spring of 1990 and this facility will be operational as soon as construction is completed. This core library will also be operated from Pasadena.

INFORMATION FILES

The St. John's office and the Pasadena core library now have microcomputers, to assist in searching the core-sample holdings and to search datafiles kept on core samples in the core libraries.

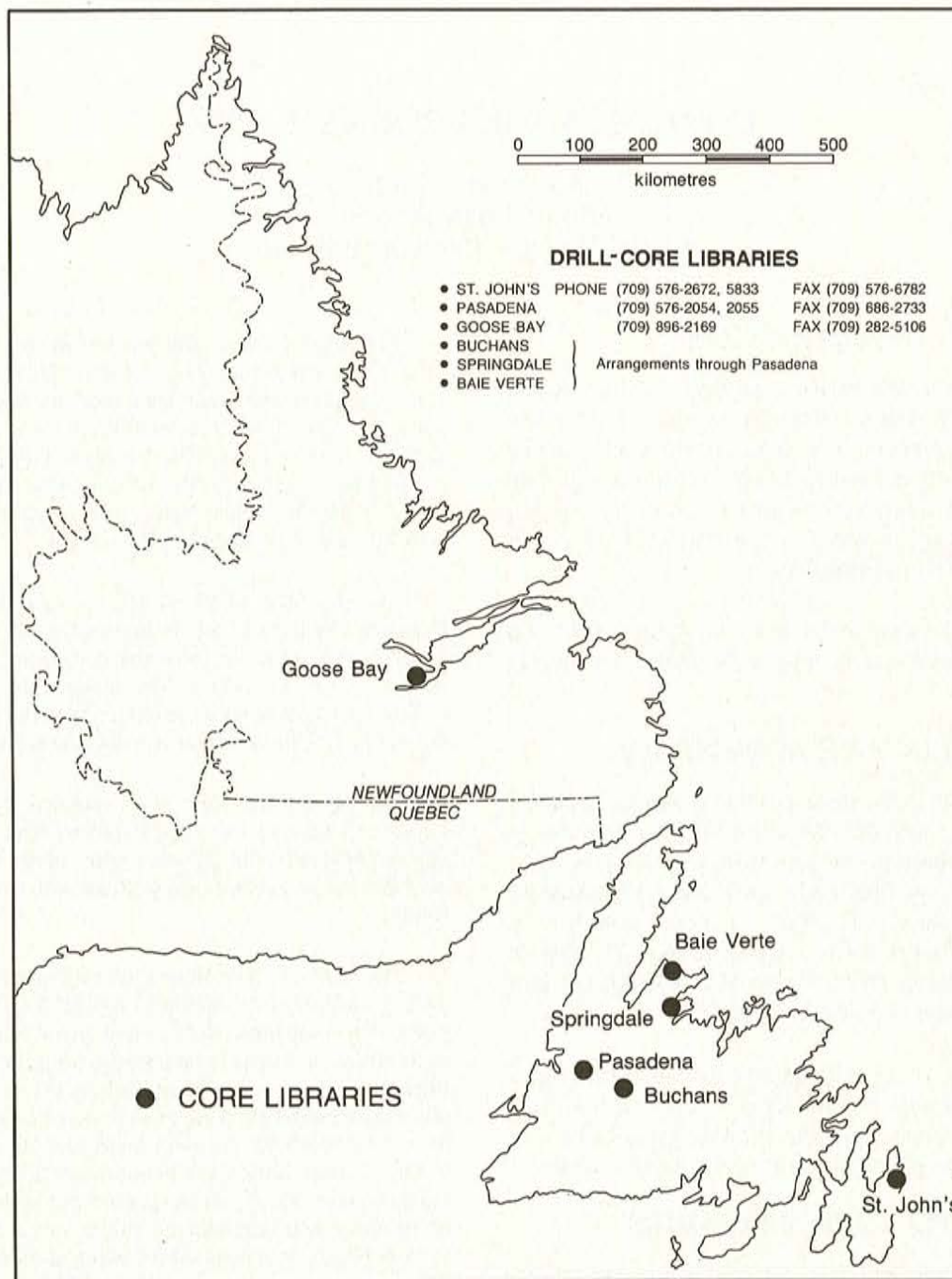


Figure 1. Core libraries in Newfoundland and Labrador

Two datafiles are currently available for searches in Pasadena and St. John's. One file contains the drillhole index data, parts of which are used to compile the drillhole catalog, and the other file contains a summary of all assays conducted on core samples stored in our core libraries, excluding Buchans. Both files have been combined in **Open File NFLD 1889** and are available from the Publications and Information Section of the Department of Mines and Energy.

CONFIDENTIAL STORAGE

Due to a lack of core-storage space in our core libraries, the Department is discontinuing the practice of confidential storage of industry drill-core samples; however, core samples already in storage on a confidential basis will not be effected until their term expires.