

## **CORE-STORAGE PROGRAM, 1990**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In 1979, the Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy 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, and university geoscientists and other geotechnical professionals.

This report summarizes activities during 1990, and presents an overview of the operations of the core-storage program.

### **DRILL-CORE ACQUISITION**

During 1990, drill-core acquisition continued in insular Newfoundland and in Labrador and 15,944 m of drill-core samples were added to the collection.

Most of these core samples, 11,548 m from 136 drillholes, were selected as representative samples from Newfoundland Zinc Mines at Daniel's Harbour, which ceased production in 1990. Approximately 1,283 m of core samples from the Mine Brook area, Pilley's Island, were also collected.

In Labrador, 2,257 m from 27 drillholes, were collected from Kennco Explorations Limited's 1959 drilling program in the Seal Lake area and are now being stored in the Goose Bay core library, and an additional 857 m of core samples from the Central Mineral Belt were added to our collection.

In total, approximately 691,727 m of drill-core samples are now being stored in buildings operated by the Department of Mines and Energy.

A catalogue of all open core samples in Department core libraries is available from the Publications and Information Section of the Department of Mines and Energy.

### **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.

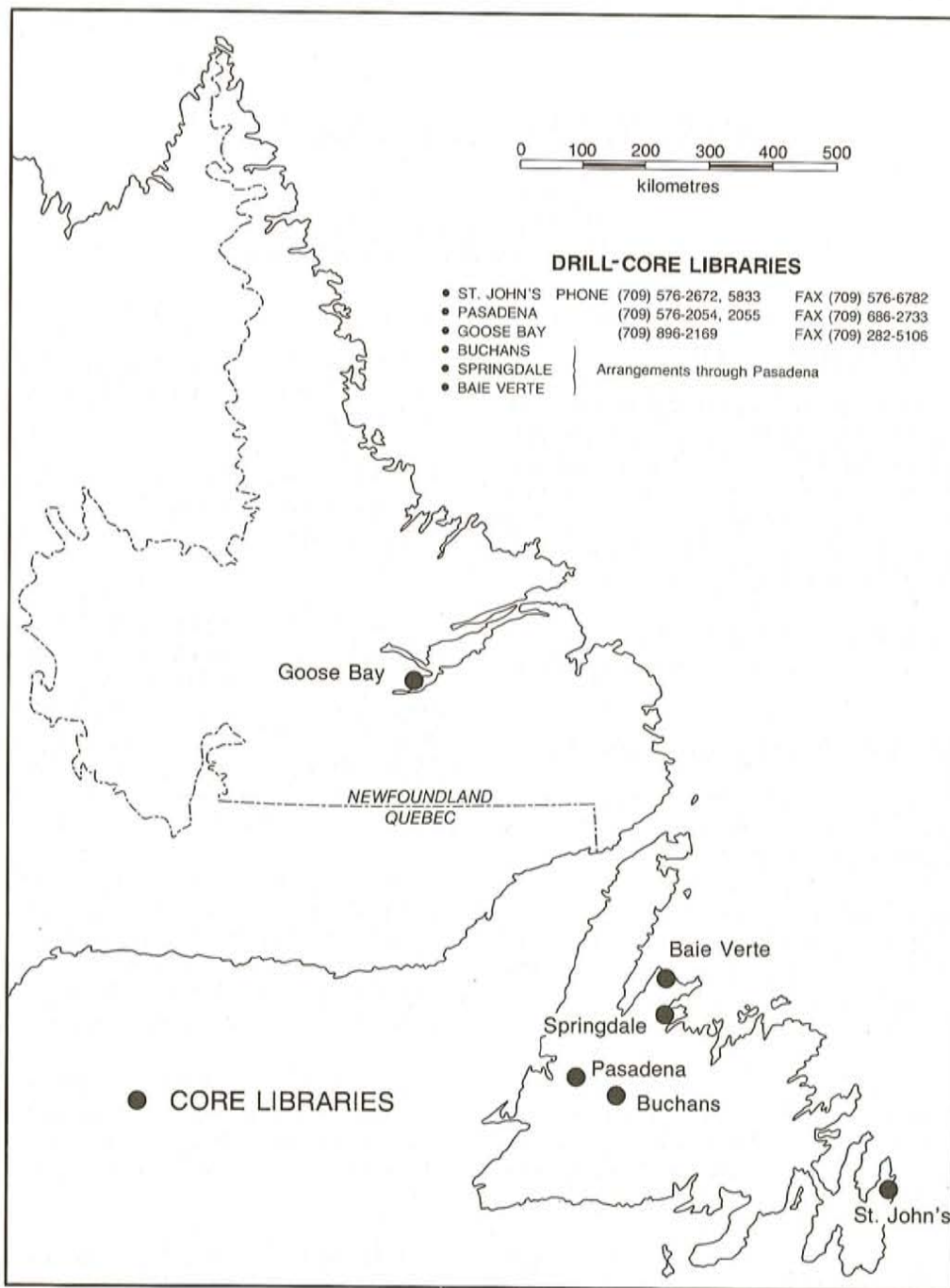
The Pasadena core library is also staffed on a full-time basis. This library has equipment similar to the St. John's library, and is also equipped with a ventilated room for storing radioactive core, and a humidity-controlled room for storing moisture-sensitive core samples. The Pasadena building has reached its capacity with only a little working space made free for new core additions by moving some 'low-priority' core outside the building for continued storage.

Claim tags can be purchased at the Pasadena core library and up-to-date sections of all claim maps are available, on request, through the Pasadena core library through facsimile machine from St. John's. The facility also serves as the summer headquarters for the quarry inspector responsible for the western part 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 instruments with the Pasadena core library.

The Buchans core library contains core samples from drilling done by ASARCO and Abitibi-Price during the years these companies were active in mining and mineral exploration in Buchans and surrounding areas. The construction of an office/core examination area was completed in 1990 and this building is now fully operational. Drillhole logs, location maps and other data on core in the Buchans library are being stored in Pasadena and all visits to the Buchans core library are being handled by staff from the Pasadena core library on an appointment basis.

The Baie Verte core-storage building is now partially operational. Construction of core-storage racks having a capacity of approximately 5,000 boxes of BQ size core has been completed. Renovations to the office area in this building are scheduled for completion in the winter of 1991 and this



**Figure 1.** Core libraries in Newfoundland and Labrador.

facility will be fully 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.

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; 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, available from the Publications and Information Section of the Department of Mines and Energy.

### **CONFIDENTIAL STORAGE**

The Department discontinued the practice of confidential storage of industry core samples in November of 1989. All new samples that are added to our core collections are now open and available for inspection by interested parties.

### **ACCESS TO CORE LIBRARIES**

The Department now operates six core-storage libraries and has fulltime staff assigned to only the St. John's and

Pasadena facilities. Visits to all core libraries should be arranged several days in advance to ensure that staff can properly accommodate all persons wishing to make use of the core storage facilities.

The contact people are Alvin Harris, St. John's, 576-5833 and Stewart Cochrane, Pasadena, 686-2054.