

# Mineral Exploration Activity in Nova Scotia, 2005

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## Mineral Exploration Monitoring

Monitoring of mineral exploration activity in Nova Scotia is coordinated through the Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles (Minerals Management Division) by the author, who works out of the regional office in Stellarton, Pictou County. Regional Geologists of the Regional Services Branch offices in Coxheath (Brendan MacKenzie), Truro (Donald Weir) and Bridgewater (Sandra Johnson) assist in the field monitoring of mineral exploration activity in their respective regions.

The monitoring process covers exploration activities throughout the province and consists of visits to company offices and exploration sites, liaison with industry personnel, and the review of current assessment reports and other material submitted by industry. Liaison with industry allows the department to maintain an awareness of current exploration activities. Assistance or advice is provided as necessary, and any drill core generated by mineral exploration activity in the province is recorded as part of the monitoring process. This core may be recovered for archiving in the Drill Core Library in Stellarton when no longer required by the companies.

The Exploration Monitoring geologist is also responsible for auditing confidential assessment reports that are submitted in support of the renewal of exploration licences. In 2005, 113 assessment reports were received and audited for compliance with the *Mineral Resources Regulations*. This number is down significantly from the 141 reports submitted for assessment credit in 2004.

## Mineral Exploration Activity in 2005

Mineral exploration in Nova Scotia during 2005 demonstrated a modest increase in the level of activity over the previous year, with field expenditures estimated to be in the range of

\$8 million compared with \$6.5 million in 2004. The recent upswing in mineral exploration from roughly doubles the annual expenditures that ranged from \$3.1-\$3.5 million between 2000 and 2003 (Table 1, Fig. 1). The increase in exploration expenditures over the past two years is reflected primarily in the recent upswing in gold exploration in the province, with the majority of work centered on historical gold mining districts in Halifax and Guysborough Counties. Exploration for base metals continued at roughly the same level of activity as in 2004, with the majority of work concentrated on Cu-Au exploration along the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone in northern mainland Nova Scotia, as well as renewed activity for carbonate-hosted Pb-Zn in the Lower Carboniferous sediments of the Windsor Group. Work also continued in the search for industrial minerals, although the number of active exploration programs continued to show a modest decrease from the level of activity prior to 2004.

The amount of money available for exploration in Nova Scotia has improved over the past two years, with the majority of exploration carried out by the junior mining sector. The increase in exploration funding is primarily a function of a significant increase in the price of gold, which averaged approximately \$425 US/oz. throughout the first seven months of 2005, and then climbed to the \$510 US range by the end of the year. Although not reflected in an increase in the level of activity for base metals, prices for base metals also demonstrated a substantial increase by the end of 2005, with prices in the range of \$2.10 US/lb. for copper, \$0.60/lb. for lead and \$0.95/lb. for zinc. Overall, the availability of readily accessible equity capital in the Canadian market, along with a favourable mining tax system and the lack of any impediments to investment in Canada by foreign companies, has continued to help sustain an increase in the level of mineral exploration.

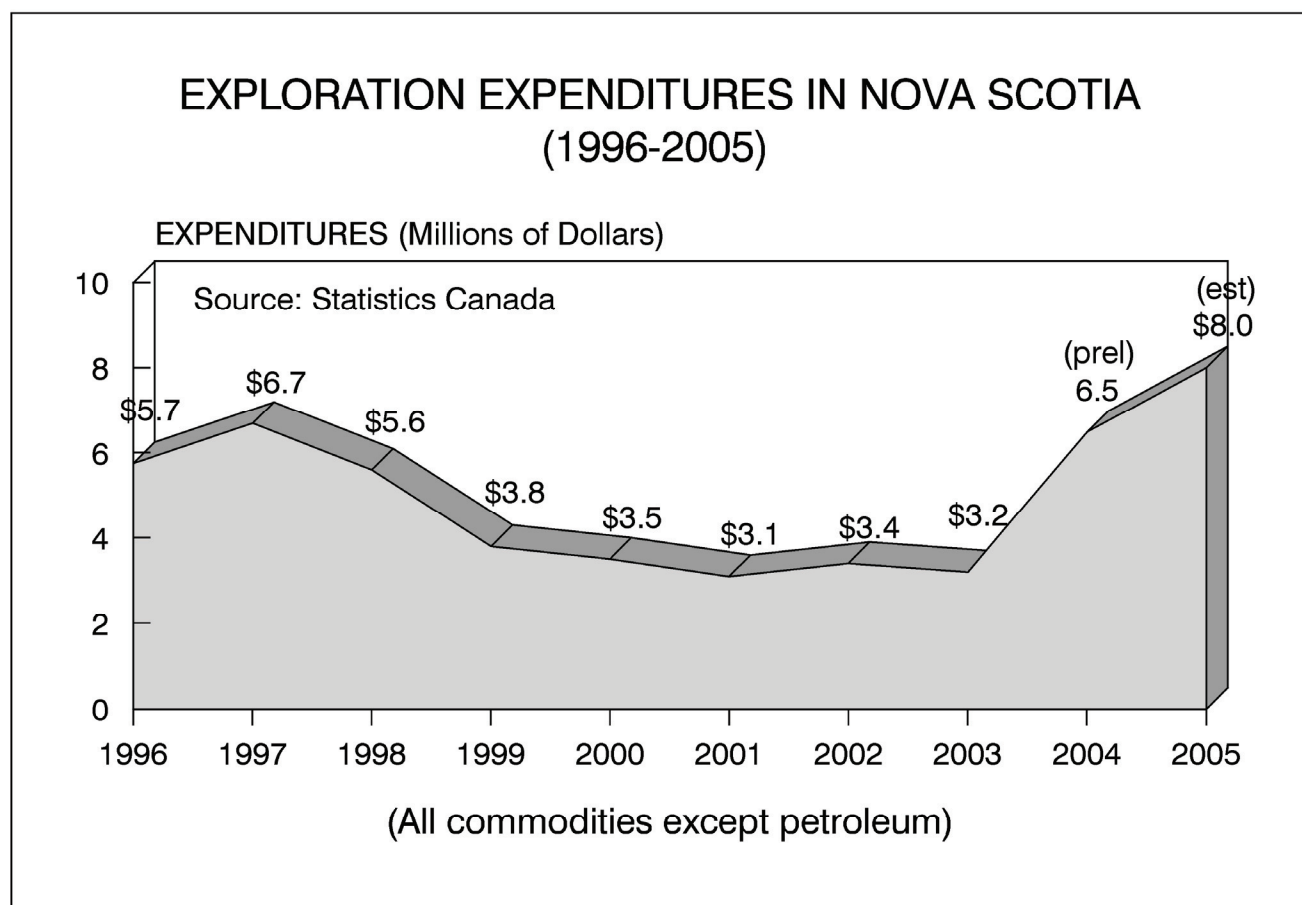
Preliminary figures for the total number of general claims staked in 2004 showed an increase of 85.4% over the previous year from 10,579 to 19,615 claims (Table 1, Fig. 2). A preliminary total

**Table 1.** Details of exploration and development activity in Nova Scotia, 1996-2005.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	<sup>p</sup> 2005
Total Field Exploration Expenditures (\$)	5 752 000	6 700 000	5 600 000	3 800 000	3 500 000	3 100 000	3 400 000	3 200 000	6 500 000	8 000 000
Total Licences Issued (all categories)	1 127	978	711	707	606	498	553	728	521	685
Claims in Good Standing (new and reissued)										
General	33 399	25 190	11 452	14 045	10 951	8 406	12 494	18 711	10 579	19 615
Special (Order in Council)										
Salt and Potash	214	214	820	804	255	255	500	500	86	86
Coal	311	240	253	173	-	-	102	102	102	102
Geothermal	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	-	-
Underground Gas Storage	-	-	106	106	106	183	183	183	201	201
Tailings	146	146	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other (gold, base metals)	130	130	130	132	10	10	10	78	210	210
Uranium*	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)
Total (excluding closures and uranium licences)	34 358	26 078	12 219	a	11 480	9 012	13 445	19 732	11 178	20 214
Total Area Held Under Licence (ha)	556 186	422 150	209 132	249 586	185 838	145 886	217 647	319 421	180 949	327 223
(acres)	1 374 320	1 043 120	516 760	616 720	459 200	360 480	537 800	789 280	447 120	808 560
Work Reported for Licence Renewals (\$)	2 376 023	3 146 899	5 385 194	2 969 047	1 136 304	2 811 393	1 457 012	1 197 208	4 270 042	
Number of Assessment Reports Received	108	133	134	100	85	72	102	96	141	113

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary figures for 2005

\*Parentheses around uranium claims indicate ground alienation due to the uranium moratorium



**Figure 1.** Exploration expenditures in Nova Scotia, 1996-2005.

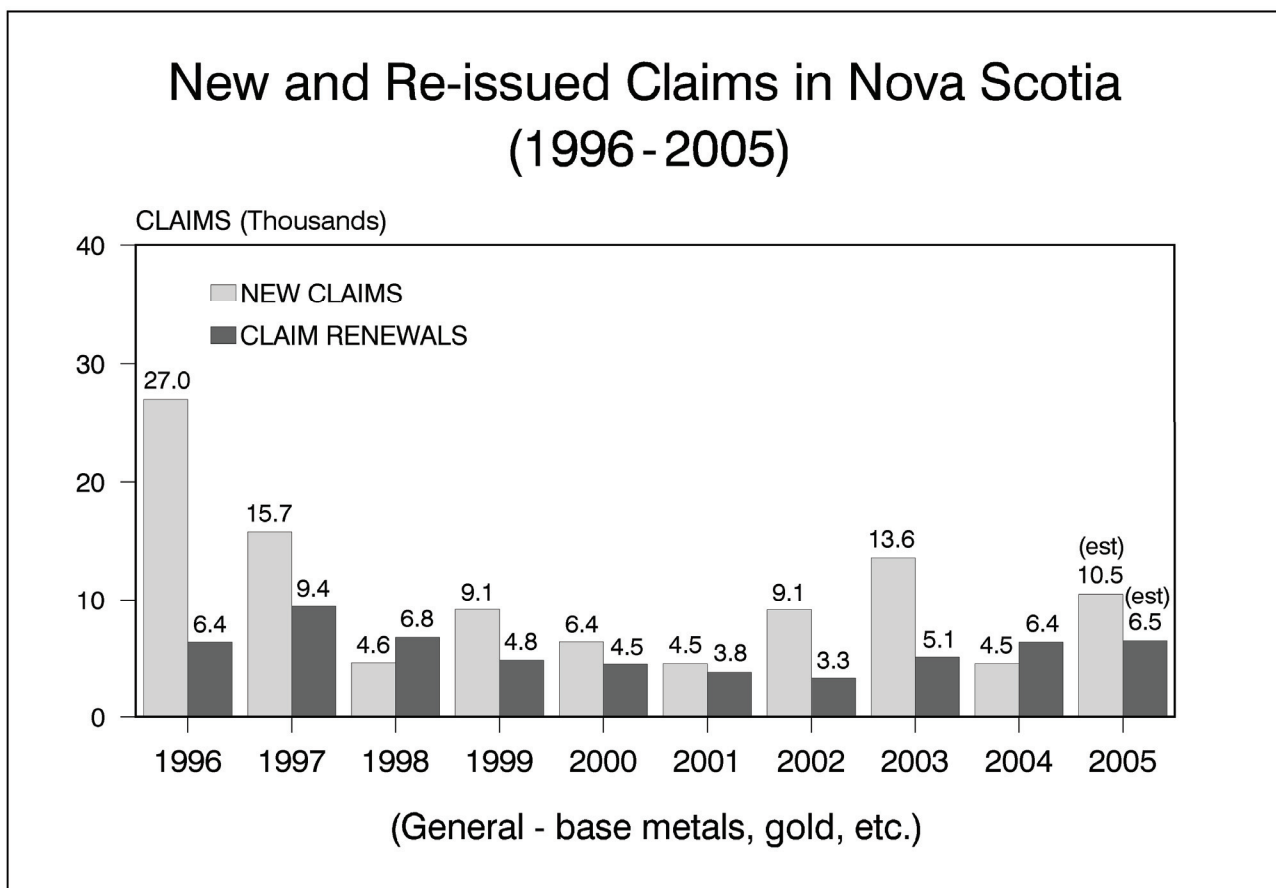
of 20,214 claims for all commodities were in effect at the end of 2005, represented by 685 general and special licences covering an area of 327 223 ha or 3272 km<sup>2</sup>, approximately 6.0% of the total area of the province. The amount of exploration drilling was down moderately over the previous year with a preliminary estimate of 20 500 metres in 2005 compared with 26 100 metres in 2004 and 12 200 metres in 2003.

Approximately 172 companies and individuals held exploration interests (licences or options) in the province in 2004, including 3 major, 19 junior and 49 private companies (Tables 2, 3 and 4). In addition, several mining lease holders carried out exploration and development work on leases or on unclaimed ground where these commodities did not require licences (e.g. limestone, gypsum). Organizations actively engaged in exploration during 2004 included 1 major, 11 junior and 13 private companies (Fig. 3, Table 5), as well as a number of individuals.

## Exploration Activities

### Gold

Exploration for gold continued to dominate mineral exploration in Nova Scotia during 2005, with the level of activity showing a modest increase over 2004. The lower Paleozoic Meguma Group of southern mainland Nova Scotia continued to be the principal focus for gold exploration, with the majority of the exploration work concentrated on the historical gold districts in Halifax and Guysborough Counties. A steady increase in the price of gold as well as an improved investment climate for the junior mining sector has contributed to renewed interest in the exploration and development of the Meguma gold deposits. The recognition of geological environments with the potential to host IOCG deposits (iron oxide-copper-gold) along the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone



**Figure 2.** Claim staking in Nova Scotia, 1996-2005.

in the northern mainland has also contributed to the current level of gold exploration.

Acadian Gold Corporation continued an aggressive exploration program for gold during 2005, and following the acquisition of property assets from Goldenville Mining Corporation in 2004 the company now has a portfolio consisting of 23 active properties throughout eastern mainland Nova Scotia and in the central Cape Breton Highlands area. Acadian continues to focus its efforts on developing mineable reserves on four key properties, including the Beaver Dam and Tangier properties in Halifax County and the Goldenville and Forest Hill properties in Guysborough County.

Acadian completed a resource study on the low-grade bulk-tonnage potential of the Beaver Dam property in the latter part of 2004 and reported measured reserves, based on a 0.3 g/t cut-off over 3.0 metres, of 219 000 tonnes with an uncut grade of 2.22 g/t gold, plus indicated reserves of 1 106 000 tonnes with an uncut grade of 2.36 g/t

gold. The company then made a decision to proceed with a preliminary diamond-drilling program on the property in 2005 and completed a total of 30 drillholes by the end of the year. Preliminary results have intersected wide gold-bearing zones and have returned levels confirming the original results from the 2004 resource evaluation. Acadian also completed a resource study on the Tangier property in 2004 and reported indicated reserves, based on a 3.5 g/t cutoff, of 134 000 tonnes with an uncut grade of 9.67 g/t gold and inferred reserves of 271 000 tonnes with an uncut grade of 15.09 g/t gold. The company completed preliminary surface exploration on the property in 2005 consisting of rotary percussion drilling, geological mapping, rock geochemical sampling and a magnetometer survey.

Acadian continued a detailed exploration program on the Forest Hill property in Guysborough County during 2005. The property, originally acquired by Goldenville Mining Corporation in 2002, has been the subject of an

**Table 2.** Major companies with exploration interests (licences or options) in Nova Scotia.

	2003	2004	2005
Aur Resources Incorporated	-	-	-
Georgia-Pacific Canada Incorporated	-	x	-
Intragaz Limited Partnership	x	-	x
Statia Terminals Canada Limited	-	-	

x indicates work performed

- company inactive

blanks indicate that the company did not hold an exploration licence in that particular year

intensive evaluation of the extensive surface drilling and underground development work completed by Seabright Resources from 1986-88. Acadian has completed an additional 70 drillholes on the property since 2003, including 12 holes completed during 2005 to confirm original assay results and expand on the original reserve estimates from the previous work. Current resources for the Forest Hill property include indicated reserves, based on a 1.0 g/t cut-off, of 245 000 tonnes with an uncut grade of 13.21 g/t gold plus inferred reserves of 818 000 tonnes with an uncut grade of 9.33 g/t gold. The company also completed a detailed resource evaluation of the Goldenville property early in the year and reported measured reserves, based on a 3.5 g/t cut-off, of 62 554 tonnes with an uncut grade of 16.62 g/t gold, plus inferred reserves of 384 596 tonnes with an uncut grade of 18.78 g/t gold. Preliminary field work on the property in 2005 included prospecting and geological mapping.

Acadian continued work on several other gold properties during 2005, including rotary percussion drilling and lithogeochemical sampling in the Lake Lode zone on the eastern extension of the Caribou Mines gold property, Halifax County, and diamond-drilling in the vicinity of Costley Lake, east of the Forest Hill gold property, Guysborough County. Additional prospecting and rock sampling was also completed on ground held in the vicinity of the Killag Mines, Moose River, and Fifteen Mile Stream gold properties in Halifax County, and east of the Crows Nest mine property along the west strike extension of the Cochrane Hill gold property in Guysborough County. The company also carried

out preliminary exploration programs on a number of other Meguma-hosted gold properties throughout southern mainland Nova Scotia during 2005. Highlights of the work included prospecting and rock sampling in the vicinity of the Brookfield Mines and Westfield gold properties in Queens County, prospecting and rock sampling in the Mineville area and rotary percussion drilling in the Moser Lake area in Halifax County, and prospecting and rock sampling in the vicinity of Waternish and Leggatt Point and diamond-drilling at Mitchell Lake in Guysborough County. The company also completed additional prospecting, rock geochemical sampling and ground geophysical surveys in the MacMillan Flowage and Indian Brook areas of Inverness and Victoria Counties in the central Cape Breton Highlands.

Atlantic Gold NL (formerly Diamond Ventures NL), under an option agreement with Moose River Resources Incorporated, continued a detailed evaluation of the Touquoy gold deposit at the Moose River gold property in Halifax County during 2005. The company proceeded to the feasibility stage in 2005, which included a comprehensive delineation diamond-drilling program, development of resource estimates, metallurgical test work, and other studies including geotechnical and hydrogeological test work. The company is also in the process of acquiring the necessary permits to put the Touquoy property into production. Work to date on the Touquoy deposit has outlined indicated reserves of 4.44 million tonnes grading 2.1 g/t and inferred reserves of 2.47 million grading 2.2 g/t. The company has also outlined indicated reserves of 870 000 tonnes

**Table 3.** Junior companies with exploration interests (licences or options) in Nova Scotia.

	2003	2004	2005
Acadian Gold Corporation	x	x	x
Atlantic Gold NL (formerly Diamond Ventures NL)	x	x	x
Aurogin Resources Limited	x	-	
Avalon Ventures Limited	x	x	x
Azure Resources Corporation	x	x	
Black Bull Resources Incorporated	x	x	x
Canstar Resources Incorporated (formerly Candor Ventures Corporation)	x	-	x
Corner Bay Silver Incorporated (formerly Corner Bay Minerals Incorporated)	-	-	
Exploration Orex Incorporated	-	-	x
Globex Mining Enterprises Incorporated	-	x	x
Heartland Resources Limited	-	-	-
Landis Mining Corporation	x	-	-
Monster Copper Resources Incorporated	x	x	x
Newfoundland Goldbar Resources Incorporated	-	-	-
Pan East Petroleum Corporation	-	-	-
Regal Goldfields Limited	-	-	-
RJZ Mining Incorporated	-	x	x
Scorpio Mining Corporation	x	x	-
ScoZinc Limited		x	x
South-Malartic Exploration Incorporated			-
Titanium Corporation Incorporated (formerly Titanium Corporation of Canada Ltd)	x	x	-
Wallbridge Mining Company Limited			x

x indicates work performed

- inactive

blanks indicate that the company did not hold an exploration license in that particular year



# MINERAL EXPLORATION IN NOVA SCOTIA 2005

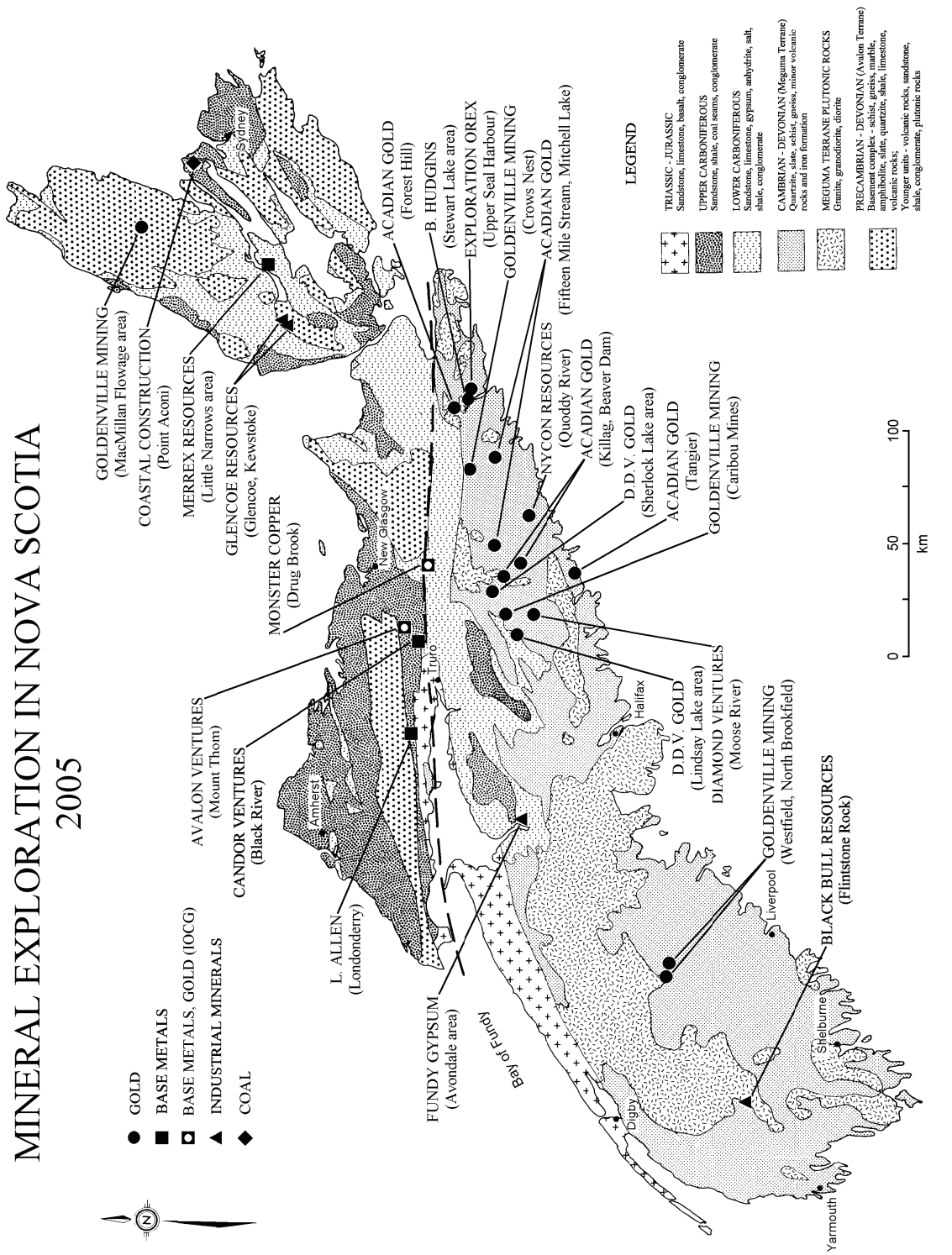


Figure 3. Mineral exploration programs in Nova Scotia, 2005.

grading 1.9 g/t and inferred reserves of 650 000 tonnes grading 2.2 g/t for the Higgins & Lawlor and Stillwater zones, approximately 2 km west of the Touquoy deposit. In addition to the main Moose River property, Atlantic also continued to evaluate the potential for Touquoy-style mineralization along the northeast and southwest strike extension of the Moose River property during the year. This work included the continuation of rotary percussion drilling and lithogeochemical sampling along the Moose River-Fifteen Mile Stream anticline, which is host to the Moose River gold deposits.

In addition to the Moose River Resources joint venture, Atlantic Gold NL has also entered into an option agreement with Acadian Gold Corporation to carry out an exploration program along the northeast and southwest strike extension of the Caribou gold property, which lies to the north of the Moose River gold property along the Caribou - Cameron Dam anticline. Work to date has included preliminary rotary percussion drilling and a lithogeochemical sampling program similar to the program carried out at Moose River. This was followed by a more detailed drilling program to assess encouraging results from the initial survey. Follow-up diamond-drilling is planned. The company has also continued to acquire additional ground east of the Moose River and Caribou gold properties in other areas of Halifax and Guysborough Counties, and has completed reconnaissance rotary percussion drilling on several properties.

Orex Exploration Incorporated acquired new financing late in 2004 to resume a detailed assessment of the former Boston Richardson zone of the Upper Seal Harbour gold property near Goldboro, Guysborough County. The company originally completed extensive surface diamond-drilling and underground development work between 1988 and 1996, and more recently completed a detailed resource study of gold reserves in 2004. Resource estimates include measured reserves of 755 000 tonnes grading 1.21 g/t and indicated reserves of 12.5 million tonnes grading 0.75 g/t. Orex completed a preliminary diamond-drilling program on the Boston Richardson deposit during the first half of 2005 to re-evaluate gold levels returned in previous drilling on the property. Analytical and

metallurgical testing on samples from the current drillholes have returned significantly improved gold levels, and the drilling program has also resulted in extending the strike extension of the Boston Richardson zone 400 m to the west of the previous underground workings.

Mr. Anthony Barrett resumed a detailed evaluation of the MacMillan Flowage gold prospect in Victoria County, consisting of bulk sampling and on-site processing of material excavated by Scotian Mineral Exploration Venture (Scominex) in 1987. Bruce Hudgins continued a detailed exploration program for gold in the Stewart Lake area south of Forest Hill, Guysborough County, consisting of soil and rock geochemical sampling, ground geophysical surveys and trenching. Rainbow Resources Limited completed additional work on the Widow Point gold prospect in Guysborough County, consisting of trenching and rock sampling, and Conrad Brothers Limited completed additional work consisting of prospecting, geological mapping and rock sampling at Lake Charles, Halifax County. Nycon Resources Incorporated completed a soil geochemical survey on a property in the Quoddy River area in Halifax County, and Meguma Resource Enterprises Incorporated completed additional work on the Miller Lake gold property in Guysborough County, consisting of prospecting and rock sampling. True Metallic Explorations Incorporated completed a remote sensing study as part of an ongoing program to evaluate the paleoplacer potential for gold in the Avon River area, Hants County.

A number of small exploration programs were also completed on several properties throughout the Meguma Group by several individuals and private interests. Lindsay Allen carried out prospecting, geological mapping and till sampling for gold and base metals in the Londonderry area, Colchester County. Mr. Allen also completed stream sediment sampling and rock sampling on the Oldham gold property in Halifax County and overburden percussion drilling on a gold prospect in the Lindsay Lake area, Halifax County. Scott Grant carried out prospecting and geological mapping on the North Brookfield gold property, Queens County, and completed geological mapping and ground geophysical surveys for gold in the Isaacs Harbour area, Guysborough County. Jack Hooper



**Table 4.** Private exploration companies in Nova Scotia.

	2003	2004	2005
2501023 Nova Scotia Limited			-
6179053 Canada Incorporated	-	-	-
6198546 Canada Incorporated	-		-
AYARCO Gold Corporation Limited	x	x	x
Alva Construction Limited	x	-	-
Annapolis Valley Goldfields Incorporated	x	x	-
Asedex Minerals Corporation Limited	-		
Blackfly Exploration & Mining	-	-	-
Benrock Limited	-		-
Burnt Point Resources Incorporated	x	-	-
Cape Crushing Company Limited		-	-
Celtic Clays	-		
Champlain Resources Incorporated	x	x	x
Cobequid Gold Corporation Limited		x	x
Conrad Brothers Limited	x	x	x
Copper Valley Holdings Limited		-	-
D&D Metal Detectors Limited		-	-
Dufferin Resources Incorporated	x	x	-
Ecum Secum Enterprises Limited		-	-
Elk Exploration Limited			-
Ellsin Resources Incorporated	x	x	x
Erdene Gold Incorporated	x		
Golden Kamala Resources Incorporated			-
Gordon James Resources Company		-	-
Gallant Aggregates Limited	-		
Geosearch	-	-	
Geostorage Associates	x	-	-
Glencoe Resources Incorporated	x	x	x
Gold 'n' Crystal Minerals	-	-	-
Golden Ace Mineral Explorations Limited	-	x	-
Goldenville Mining Corporation		x	x
H & E Mullen Investments Limited	x	x	-
Hansone Limited	x	-	x
Highland Range Minerals Limited	-	-	-
Hudgtec Consulting Limited			-
Huntington Explorations Incorporated	-		
John Logan Enterprises Limited	-	-	-
Jubilee Minerals	-	-	x
KaoClay Resources Incorporated	-	-	-
Kelly Rock Limited	-		-
Lynx Minerals Corporation	x	-	-
MacLeod Resources Limited	x	x	-

**Table 4.** Private exploration companies in Nova Scotia (cont'd).

	2003	2004	2005
McLaren and Associates Geological Services		-	
Meguma Resource Enterprises Incorporated	x	x	x
Minas Basin Pulp & Paper Company Limited	-	-	-
Mindset Resources Limited			-
Moose River Resource Limited		x	x
Mt. Cameron Minerals Incorporated	-	x	-
Municipal Capitol Incorporated			-
New Road Resources Limited		-	
Nycon Resources Incorporated	x	x	x
Ochter Holdings Limited	-		
Pettizite Minerals and Exploration			-
Rainbow Resources Limited	-	x	x
The Shaw Group Limited	-	-	-
Tri-Explorations Limited	-	-	
True Metallic Explorations	-	-	-
Unama Ki Resource Exploration and Investment			-
Votix Corporation Limited	x	x	x
Yava Technologies Incorporated	x	x	x

x indicates work performed

- inactive

blanks indicate that the company did not hold an exploration license in that particular year

completed trenching and a small bulk sampling program on the Molega gold property, Queens County, and Perry Bezanson carried out prospecting, stripping and rock sampling on a gold prospect in the New Chester area, Guysborough County. Henry Schenkels carried out prospecting and soil sampling for gold at Black Duck Lake along the west extension of the Caribou Gold Mines gold property.

## Base Metals

Exploration for base metals in 2005 continued at roughly the same level of activity as the previous year, demonstrating a modest improvement over

recent years. The increase in activity over the past two years was reflected primarily in a shift in focus to new geological environments associated with the potential for the discovery of Olympic Dam style 'iron oxide-copper-gold' (IOCG) deposits along the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone in central mainland Nova Scotia. Numerous Cu-Fe occurrences with other mineral associations, including cobalt and precious metals, occur along this major structural zone. Exploration also focused on known mineral occurrences in other environments, including the Lower Carboniferous Windsor Group and Precambrian rocks in the Cape Breton Highlands and the coastal areas of Cape Breton County.

**Table 5.** Exploration programs in Nova Scotia, 2005.

COMPANY/INDIVIDUAL	LOCATION	COMMODITY	PROGRAM
Acadian Gold Corporation	Beaver Dam, Halifax County	Gold	Diamond-drilling
	Brookfield, Queens County	Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling
	Caribou Mines, Halifax County	Gold	Rotary percussion drilling
	Costly Lake, Guysborough County	Gold	Diamond-drilling
	Crows Nest, Guysborough County	Gold	Prospecting, geological mapping, rock sampling
	Fifteen Mile Stream area, Halifax County	Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling, ground geophysics
	Forest Hill, Guysborough County	Gold	Diamond-drilling
	Goldenville, Guysborough County	Gold	Resource evaluation, prospecting, geological Mapping
	Indian Brook, Victoria County	Gold	Ground geophysics
	Killag Mines, Halifax County	Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling
	Leggatt Point, Guysborough County	Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling
	MacMillan Flowage area, Inverness and Victoria Counties	Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling, ground geophysics
	Mineville, Halifax County	Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling
	Mitchell Lake, Guysborough County	Gold	Diamond-drilling
Atlantic Gold NL	Moose River area, Halifax County	Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling, ground geophysics
	Moser Lake, Halifax County	Gold	Rotary percussion drilling
	Tangier, Halifax County	Gold	Prospecting, geological mapping, ground geophysics, rotary percussion drilling
	Waternish, Guysborough County	Gold	Prospecting, ground geophysics
	Westfield, Queens County	Gold	Prospecting, geological mapping, rock sampling
	Caribou Mines area, Halifax County	Gold	Rotary percussion drilling
	Moose River, Halifax County	Gold	Diamond-drilling, rotary percussion drilling metallurgical studies
	Mount Thom area, Pictou County	Copper, gold	Ground geophysical, diamond-drilling
	Stewart Lake, Guysborough County	Gold	Soil and rock geochemical sampling, ground Geophysics, trenching
	Flintstone Rock, Yarmouth County	Kaolin, silica	Trenching, bulk sampling, diamond-drilling
	Black River area, Colchester County	Copper, gold	Ground geophysics
	Point Aconi, Cape Breton County	Coal	Trenching, bulk sampling
	Lake Charles, Halifax County	Gold	Prospecting, geological mapping, rock sampling
	Avondale, Hants County	Gypsum	Diamond-drilling
Avalon Ventures Limited			
B. Hudgins			
Black Bull Resources Incorporated			
Canstar Resources Incorporated			
Coastal Construction & Excavating Ltd.			
Conrad Brothers Limited			
Fundy Gypsum Company			

**Table 5.** Exploration programs in Nova Scotia, 2005 (cont'd).

COMPANY/INDIVIDUAL	LOCATION	COMMODITY	PROGRAM
Glencoe Resources Incorporated	Glencoe, Inverness County Kewstoke, Inverness County	Carbonates (marble) Carbonates (marble)	Rock sampling Geological mapping, rock sampling
H. Schenkels	Black Duck Lake, Halifax County	Gold	Prospecting
Intragaz and Company, Limited Partnership	Canfields Creek, Cumberland County	Salt	Geophysical work
J. Hopper	Molega, Queens County	Gold	Trenching, bull sampling
L. Allen	Lindsay Lake, Halifax County Londonderry, Colchester County Oldham, Halifax County	Gold Copper, gold Gold	Rotary percussion drilling Prospecting, geological mapping, till sampling Stream sediment sampling, rock sampling
M. Cullen	Staples Brook, Colchester County Kemptown, Colchester County	Coal Coal	Rotary percussion drilling, ground geophysics Rotary percussion drilling, ground geophysics
Meguma Resources Enterprises Inc.	Miller Lake, Guysborough County	Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling
Merrex Resources Incorporated	Lake Narrows area, Victoria County	Gold	Diamond-drilling
Monster Copper Resources Incorporated	Drug Brook, Pictou County	Copper, gold	Soil sampling, ground geophysics
Nycon Resources Incorporated	Quoddy River, Halifax County	Gold	Soil sampling
Orex Enterprises Incorporated	Upper Seal Harbour, Guysborough County	Gold	Diamond-drilling, analytical and metallurgical studies
P. Bezanson	New Chester, Guysborough County	Gold	Prospecting, stripping, rock sampling
P. MacKinnon	Glendale, Inverness County	Carbonates (marble)	Geological mapping
Rainbow Resources Limited	Oceanview, Cape Breton County	Base metals	Prospecting, geological mapping, ground geophysics
	Widow Point, Guysborough County	Gold	Trenching, rock sampling
S. Grant	North Brookfield, Queens County Isaacs Harbour, Guysborough County	Gold Gold	Prospecting, geological mapping Prospecting, geological mapping, ground geophysics
True Metallic Exploration Incorporated	Avon River area, Hants County	Placer gold	Remote sensing study
Yava Technologies Incorporated	Silver Mine, Cape Breton County	Lead	Metallurgical studies

Monster Copper Resources Incorporated continued an exploration program to evaluate the base metal and precious metal potential of the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone in central mainland Nova Scotia. The company, along with exploration partner Wallbridge Mining Company, began work on the project in 2002 to evaluate the potential for IOCG deposits in iron-rich breccia occurrences. In 2005, the company completed soil geochemical sampling and ground geophysical surveys in the Drug Brook area, Pictou County. Avalon Ventures Limited entered into an option agreement with private interests in the fall of 2003 to evaluate the potential for IOCG deposits in the Mount Thom area northeast of the town of Truro bordering Pictou and Colchester Counties. The project area is host to the Mount Thom Cu-Co-Au prospect. Work on the property in 2005 consisted of ground geophysical surveying and additional diamond-drilling. Canstar Resources Incorporated (formerly Candor Ventures Corporation) continued work in the Black River area near Riversdale, Colchester County, to evaluate the IOCG potential in the area of a known copper showing along the east-west Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone. Work on the property included ground geophysical surveying.

Yava Technologies Incorporated continued a detailed evaluation of the former Yava lead deposit located near Silver Mine in Cape Breton County. The property hosts a 4.5 million ton stratabound lead deposit in Carboniferous sandstones grading 2.79% Pb with minor zinc. The company is currently evaluating the feasibility of utilizing *in situ* leach mining to recover the low-grade lead. The company carried out additional electrolytic and solvent extraction studies during the year to evaluate recovery methods. Rainbow Resources Limited carried out prospecting, geological mapping and ground geophysics in the French Road-Oceanview area in southeastern Cape Breton County to evaluate the potential for porphyry-related base metal mineralization. Merrex Resources Incorporated, under an option agreement with Jubilee Minerals Limited, completed a diamond-drilling program in the Little Narrows area, Victoria County, to evaluate the base metal potential of the Lower Carboniferous Windsor Group in the vicinity of the Jubilee Pb-Zn property.

## Industrial Minerals

The level of exploration activity for industrial minerals in 2005 was down significantly over the previous year, with activity focused primarily on carbonate deposits.

Glencoe Resources Incorporated completed additional work on the Upper Glencoe and Kewstoke carbonate deposits near Glencoe, Inverness County. Work on the properties included geological mapping and rock sampling. Perry MacKinnon also completed geological mapping on a carbonate prospect in the Glendale area of Inverness County.

Black Bull Resources Incorporated completed additional work on the White Rock Mine property in Yarmouth County during 2005. The work included trenching and bulk sampling to evaluate kaolin resources in the immediate vicinity of the mine and diamond-drilling to test the east and west strike extensions of the known silica and kaolin reserves. Fundy Gypsum Company began a large-scale diamond-drilling program for gypsum in the Avondale area, Hants County, during the summer of 2005.

## Coal

Michael Cullen continued to explore for coal resources in the Debert and Kempton areas, Colchester County, during the fall. The work program in 2005 consisted of ground geophysical surveys and rotary percussion drilling on the two properties.

Coastal Construction & Excavating Limited completed a trenching and bulk sampling program for coal in the Point Aconi area, Cape Breton County.

## Other

Intragas and Company Limited Partnership continued an evaluation of the potential for developing underground bulk hydrocarbon storage in salt deposits of the Lower Carboniferous sediments of the Windsor Group in the Canfields Creek area, Cumberland County. The current work program consisted of geophysical work.