

# Mineral Exploration Activity in Nova Scotia, 2008

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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 of the Mineral 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 Johnston) 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 throughout the province. 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 the support of the renewal of exploration licences. In 2008, 234 assessment reports were received and audited for compliance with the Mineral Resources Regulations. The number of reports is up significantly from the 200 reports submitted for assessment credit in 2007.

## Mineral Exploration Activity in 2008

Mineral exploration in Nova Scotia during 2008 continued at approximately the same level of

activity as the previous two years, with field expenditures estimated to be in the range of \$15 million compared with \$8.7 million in 2006 and \$10.6 million in 2007. Mineral exploration has demonstrated a steady increase in expenditures since the beginning of 2004 (Table 1, Fig. 1), following a relatively quiet period of exploration activity between 2000 and 2003 where annual expenditures hovered in the range of \$3.1 to 3.5 million. The current level of exploration expenditures has been the result of a sustained interest in gold exploration over the past five years, focused primarily on the historical gold mining districts in southern mainland Nova Scotia. In addition, there has been a gradual increase in the level of activity for base metals over the same period with the majority of work focused on carbonate-hosted Pb-Zn in the Lower Carboniferous sediments of the Windsor Group throughout the northern mainland areas of the province, and in central Cape Breton Island.

The amount of money available for exploration in the province has continued to improve over the past several years with most of the current exploration activity being carried out by the junior mining sector. The increase in exploration funding has been the result of a substantial increase in the price of gold in recent years. Following a gradual rise in the price of gold from roughly \$300US/oz. in early 2002 to approximately \$450US/oz. in the fall of 2005, bullion prices continued to climb to an average of \$675US/oz. by the middle of 2007 and then climbed sharply to the \$825US/oz. range by the end of the year. The price of gold averaged roughly \$900US/oz. during the first half of 2008, and declined sharply to just over \$700US/oz. by early fall as investors reacted to the news of the growing financial crisis the United States and Europe. The trend then reversed as investors began to lose their confidence in the traditional markets of currency and stocks, with gold prices climbing to just over \$900US/oz. by year end.

Base metals also followed a similar trend with prices rising from approximately \$0.75US/lb. for

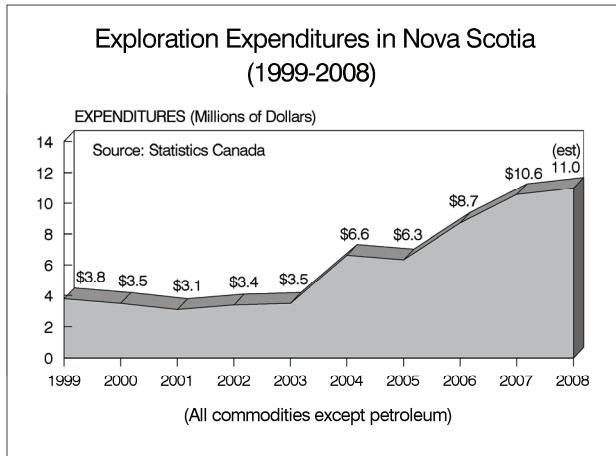
**Table 1. Details of exploration and development activity in Nova Scotia, 1999-2008.**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	P <sup>2007</sup>	P <sup>2008</sup>
Total Field Exploration Expenditures (\$)	3 800 000	3 500 000	3 100 000	3 400 000	3 491 710	6 632 520	6 337 550	8 735 000	P <sup>10 600 000</sup>	P <sup>11 000 000</sup>
Total Licences Issued (all categories)	707	606	498	553	728	521	743	911	P <sup>909</sup>	P <sup>1 007</sup>
Claims in Good Standing (new and reissued)										
General	14 045	10 951	8 406	12 492	18 711	10 579	21 721	25 924	51 297	P <sup>36 500</sup>
Special (Order in Council)										
Salt and Potash	804	255	255	500	500	218	349	349	263	131
Coal	173	-	-	102	102	102	128	1 380	1 348	1 252
Geothermal	158	158	158	158	158	-	-	-	-	-
Underground Gas Storage	106	106	183	183	183	201	201	201	-	-
Tailings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other (gold, base metals)	132	10	10	10	78	78	78	100	100	100
Uranium*	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)	(226)
Total (excluding closures and uranium licences)	15 418	11 480	9 012	13 445	19 732	11 178	22 527	27 954	51 361	P <sup>37 983</sup>
Total Area Held Under Licence (ha)	249 586	185 838	145 886	217 647	319 421	180 949	364 666	452 518	858 092	P <sup>614 868</sup>
(acres)	616 720	459 200	360 480	537 800	789 280	447 120	901 080	1 118 160	2 120 320	P <sup>1 519 320</sup>
Work Reported for Licence Renewals	2 969 047	1 136 304	2 811 393	1 457 012	1 197 208	4 270 042	5 704 121	6 273 377	9 632 665	?
Number of Assessment Reports Re-	100	85	72	102	96	141	113	162	200	234

P<sup>2007</sup>Preliminary figures for 2008

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

December 31, 2008



**Figure 1.** Exploration expenditures in Nova Scotia, 1999-2008.

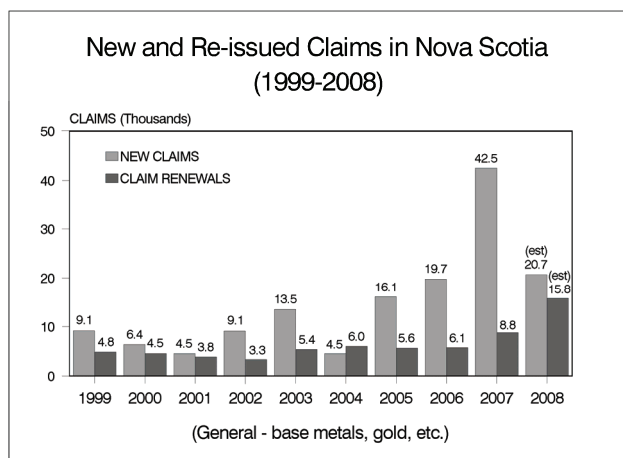
copper, \$0.20US/lb. for lead, and \$0.35US/lb. for zinc in mid 2003 to approximately \$2.10US/lb. for copper, \$0.60US/lb. for lead, and \$0.95US/lb. for zinc by the end of 2005. Copper prices climbed dramatically in early 2006 to approximately \$3.75US/lb. by the end of the first quarter and continued to trade in the \$3.00-\$3.50US/lb. range throughout 2006 and 2007, reaching a high of just under \$4.00US/lb. in the first half of 2008. Copper prices then dropped precipitously during the second half of 2008 and ended the year at approximately \$1.40US/lb. Lead prices began a rapid climb in mid-2006, reaching a high of \$1.70US/lb. by the late fall of 2007. Prices for lead then began to slide in early 2008 and ended the year at approximately \$0.50US/lb. Zinc prices began to climb rapidly in mid-2006 and reached a high of \$2.00US/lb. by the end of 2006. Prices for zinc followed a similar pattern to lead and also began to slide in early 2008, ending the year at approximately \$0.50US/lb. The impending global financial crisis, particularly in the United States, contributed directly to the dramatic drop in metal prices, reflecting growing inventories and stalled economic growth throughout the world.

The availability of readily accessible equity capital in the Canadian market over the past several years, along with a favourable mining tax system and the lack of any impediments to investment in Canada by foreign companies, has helped to sustain an overall increase in the level of mineral exploration for the past several years in most areas of the country, including Nova Scotia.

Unfortunately, the rapid drop in metal prices and an uncertain economic climate has impacted heavily on the investment community. As a result, many exploration programs have been negatively impacted as well.

Preliminary figures for the total number of general claims staked in 2008 show a significant drop of 28.9% over the previous year from 51,297 to 36,500 claims (Table 1, Fig. 2). A preliminary total of 37,983 claims for all commodities were in effect at the end of 2008, represented by 1007 general and special licences covering an area of 614 868 ha or 6 148 km<sup>2</sup>, approximately 11.3% of the total area of the province. The amount of diamond-drilling was up significantly over the previous year, with a preliminary estimate of 35 000 m in 2008 compared with 31 775 m in 2007 and 12 250 m in 2006 (Fig. 3). In addition, an estimated 4 000 m of percussion drilling was also completed in 2008, compared with 14 200 m in 2007 and 20 290 m in 2006 (Fig. 3).

Approximately 142 companies and individuals held exploration interests (licences or options) in the province in 2008 including 2 major, 13 junior and 34 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 2008 included 1 major, 10 junior and 19 private companies (Fig. 4; Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5), as well as a number of individuals.



**Figure 2.** Claim staking in Nova Scotia, 1999-2008.

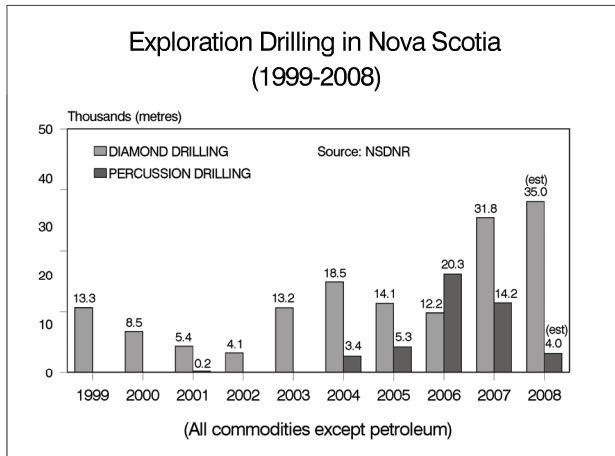


Figure 3. Exploration drilling in Nova Scotia, 1999-2008.

## Overview of Exploration Activities

### Gold

Exploration for gold continued to be a prominent focus for mineral exploration in the province during 2008 with the level of activity similar to 2007. The lower Paleozoic Meguma Supergroup 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 (Table 5). The continued strength in the price of gold and a sustained improvement in the investment climate for the junior mining sector continued to maintain interest in the exploration and development of the Meguma gold deposits.

Atlantic Gold NL, through its wholly-owned Canadian subsidiary DDV Gold Limited, continued to evaluate the potential for Touquoy-style mineralization along the northeast and southwest strike extension of the Moose River (Touquoy) property in Halifax County during the year, including the Higgins & Lawlor and Stillwater properties immediately west of the Touquoy deposit. Atlantic Gold also entered into an option agreement with Scorpio Gold Corporation in May 2007 to undertake a resource evaluation of the Cochrane Hill gold deposit in Guysborough County. Resource development drilling was undertaken on the property during 2008. In addition, Atlantic Gold carried out percussion drilling in the immediate vicinity of the Cochrane Hill deposit along the east and west strike extension of the Cochrane Hill anticline. Regional exploration targets throughout were also evaluated during the year on optioned ground with the bulk of the work consisting of percussion drilling and geochemical analysis of till and basement rocks encountered in the drilling.

Orex Exploration Incorporated acquired financing at the beginning of 2008, which allowed the company to proceed with Phase 2 of a long-term exploration and development program to evaluate the bulk mining potential of the former Boston-Richardson gold deposit near Goldboro, Guysborough County. Diamond-drilling was started in February and continued throughout the year with the completion of 44 holes along the strike extension of the main Boston-Richardson zone. Drilling on the property will continue in 2009.

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

	2006	2007	2008
Acadian Mining Corporation (formerly Acadian Gold Corporation)	x	x	x
Aur Resources Incorporated	-	-	
Georgia-Pacific Canada Incorporated	-	-	-
Intragaz Limited Partnership	-	-	

x indicates work performed

- company inactive

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

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

	2006	2007	2008
Annapolis Properties Corporation			x
Atlantic Gold NL (formerly Diamond Ventures NL)	x	x	x
Avalon Ventures Limited	x	x	x
Black Bull Resources Incorporated	-	-	-
Canstar Resources Incorporated (formerly Candor Ventures Corporation)	x	-	-
Exploration Orex Incorporated	-	-	x
Globex Mining Enterprises Incorporated	-	-	x
Greyhawk Ridge Minerals Incorporated			-
Heartland Resources Limited		-	
Landis Mining Corporation	x	x	-
Merrex Gold Incorporated		x	x
Minotaur Exploration Ltd.		x	x
Monster Copper Resources Incorporated	-	-	
Pan East Petroleum Corporation	-	-	
Regal Goldfields Limited	-	-	
RJZ Mining Incorporated	-	x	
Scorpio Mining Corporation	-	x	x
ScoZinc Limited	x	x	x
Tripple Uranium Resources Inc.		x	x
Titanium Corporation Incorporated (formerly Titanium Corporation of Canada Ltd)	-		
Wallbridge Mining Company Limited	-		

x indicates work performed

- inactive

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

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

	2006	2007	2008
2134889 Ontario Incorporated		-	
2403496 Nova Scotia Limited	-	-	
2501023 Nova Scotia Ltd.		-	
6179053 Canada Incorporated	-	x	x
6531954 Canada Incorporated			-
Alpha Uranium Resources Incorporated		-	x
Atec Power Incorporated	-		
Ayarco Gold Corporation Limited	-	x	x
Alva Construction Limited	-	-	-
Billnor Forest Products Ltd.		-	
Blackfly Exploration & Mining	x	x	x
Benrock Limited	x		
Burnt Point Resources Incorporated	x	x	-
Canada Direct Trading Limited	-		
Champlain Resources Incorporated	-	-	-
Chebucto Resources		-	
Conrad Brothers Limited	x	-	-
Coxheath Resources Limited		-	x
D.D.V. Gold Limited	x	x	x
Donkin Tenements Incorporated	x	x	x
Dufferin Resources Incorporated	-		
Ecum Secum Enterprises Limited	x	-	x
Elk Exploration Limited	x	x	x
Ellsin Resources Incorporated	-		
Gifhorse Resources		x	x
Golden Kamala Resources Incorporated	-	-	
Geostorage Associates	-		
Glencoe Resources Incorporated	x	x	x
H & E Mullen Investments Limited	x		
Hudgtec Consulting Limited	x-	-	x
J. W. Tanner Logging Limited			-
John Logan Enterprises Limited	-	-	-
Jubilee Minerals	x	-	-
Kaoclay Resources Incorporated	-	-	-
Kelly Rock Limited	-	x	
MacLeod Resources Limited	-	-	-
Meguma Resource Enterprises Incorporated	x	x	x
Millbrook Minerals Incorporated			-
Moose River Resources Limited	x	-	
Mt. Cameron Minerals Incorporated	-	-	-
Municipal Capitol Incorporated	-	-	-
New Road Resources Limited		-	

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

	2006	2007	2008
Nycon Resources Incorporated	-	x	x
Pettizite Minerals and Exploration		-	
Rainbow Resources Limited	-	-	x
Ressources Appalaches		x	
Scratch Exploration and Mining Company Limited		x	x
Senternet Technologies Incorporated			-
The Shaw Group Limited	-	-	-
True Metallic Explorations	x	x	x
Unama`Ki Resource Exploration and Investment	x	x	-
United Reef Limited	-	x	x
Yava Technologies Incorporated	-	x	x

x indicates work performed

- inactive

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

Acadian Mining Corporation continued exploration on several gold properties throughout Halifax and Guysborough Counties during 2008, including the Big Lake, Cochrane Hill and Upper Seal Harbour areas in Guysborough County, the Dufferin Mines, Kent Lake, Moose River and Sandy Pond areas in Halifax County, and the Brookfield Mines area in Queens County. Work on these properties included geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling and till sampling. Annapolis Properties Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Acadian, continued exploration on several additional properties acquired by Acadian, including the Country Harbour and Isaacs Harbour area in Guysborough County, and the Oldham, Killag Mines and Lindsay Lake areas in Halifax County.

Alpha Uranium Resources Limited initiated an exploration program for gold at near Mill Village in Queens County and in the vicinity of Scraggy Lake in Halifax County. Work on the properties included geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling and till sampling. United Reef Limited completed additional work northeast of Clarksville, Hants County, during the year to assess the placer gold potential of the area. Nycon Resources

Incorporated continued exploration for gold in the Quoddy River and Dufferin Mines areas in Halifax County during 2008, consisting of prospecting and soil sampling.

Several individuals and private interests also carried out exploration for gold throughout southern mainland Nova Scotia during 2008 (Table 5).

## Base Metals

Exploration for base metals in 2008 demonstrated a modest increase in comparison to 2007. Current activity has focused primarily on the exploration for base metals in the Lower Carboniferous Windsor Group sediments in northern mainland Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island. Exploration for base metals was also undertaken in several other geological environments, including potential Olympic Dam style IOCG (iron oxide-copper-gold) deposits and associated polymetallic mineralization (Pb, Zn, Ag, Sn, W, Mo) along the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone throughout central mainland Nova Scotia, polymetallic mineralization associated with, in particular, greisen zones (highly altered granites and pegmatites) and vein systems

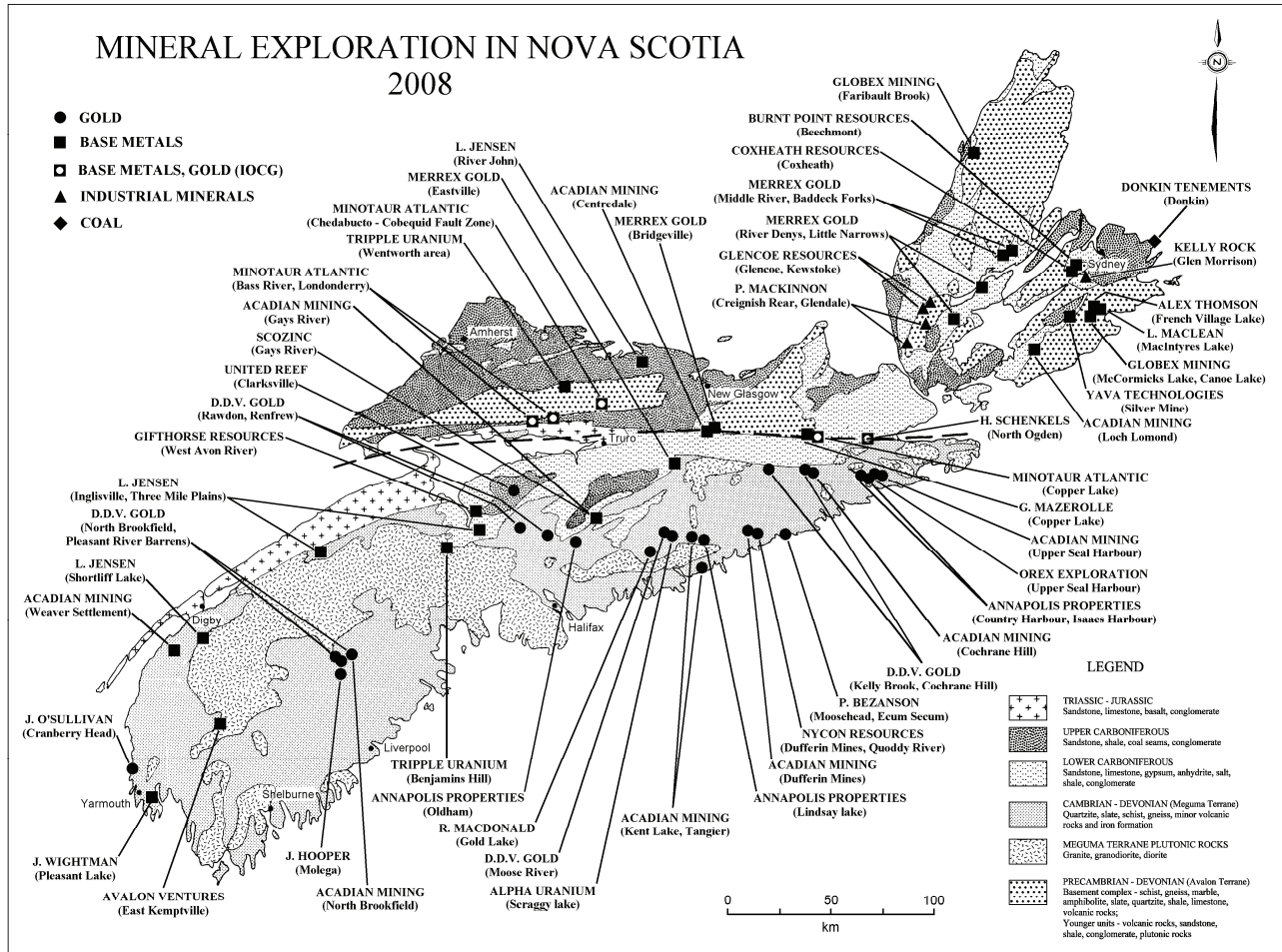


Figure 4. Mineral exploration programs in Nova Scotia, 2008.

in the South Mountain Batholith, porphyry-style Cu-Au-Mo mineralization associated with Precambrian volcanic rocks in the Coxheath Hills area in eastern Cape Breton Island, and polymetallic mineralization highly altered Precambrian metasediments in the French Road - Oceanview area in southeastern Cape Breton Island.

Acadian Mining Corporation has acquired extensive ground holdings throughout the province as part of an exploration program to expand on the company's base metal reserves. The company recently re-opened the former Gays River lead-zinc mine and began shipping lead and zinc concentrate from its open pit operation in late 2007. Acadian Mining Corporation continued exploration on a number of base metal properties during 2008, including the Weaver Settlement area in Digby County, the Lively Brook area in Hants County, the

Shubenacadie area in Colchester County, the Centredale area in Pictou County, and the Cross Roads Ohio area in Antigonish County. Preliminary work on the properties included prospecting, water sampling and rock sampling.

Merrex Gold Incorporated, under an option agreement with Jubilee Minerals Limited, continued a detailed evaluation of the Jubilee Pb-Zn property in the Little Narrows area of central Cape Breton Island. The company completed additional diamond-drilling on the property during 2008 and reported the discovery of additional ore-grade Pb-Zn intersections from a newly discovered parallel zone along the strike extension of the known deposit. The carbonate-hosted Pb-Zn is associated with vertical faults in rocks of the Lower Carboniferous Windsor Group. The company also completed preliminary exploration for carbonate hosted Pb-Zn on several other properties in central

Cape Breton Island during 2008, including the Washabuck, Hazeldale, Middle River and Baddeck Forks areas in Victoria County, and the River Denys area in Inverness County. Exploration for base metals was also carried out on mainland Nova Scotia, including the Bridgeville and Macdonald Brook areas in Pictou County, and the Pembroke, Eastville and Bear Brook areas in Colchester County.

Coxheath Resources Limited continued to evaluate the Cu-Mo-Au-Ag potential of late Precambrian volcanic rocks of the Coxheath Plutonic-Volcanic Belt near Beechmont in Cape Breton County. Work on the property included geological mapping, prospecting and an IP survey. The company expanded its exploration efforts in the province in 2008 and carried out preliminary work consisting of prospecting and IP surveys on a number of properties on mainland Nova Scotia. Work was completed in the Shortliff Lake area in Digby County, the Inglisville area in Annapolis County, the McGee Lake area in Kings County, the Three Mile Plains and Windsor areas in Hants County, the Port Philip and Beckwith areas in Cumberland County, and the River John area in Pictou County.

Burnt Point Resources Incorporated also completed work in the Beechmont area on ground immediately to the east of the Coxheath Resources property. Geological mapping, rock sampling and an IP survey were completed in the MacKenzie Brook and Morrison Brook areas in conjunction with the exploration program completed by Coxheath Resources.

Minotaur Atlantic Exploration Ltd., in an option agreement with Dundee Precious Metals Incorporated, continued to explore for potential IOCG (iron oxide -copper-gold) deposits in the northern mainland area of the province. The Chedabucto-Cobequid Fault Zone is host to numerous occurrences of iron oxide, Cu, Co, Ni, Au and Ba, along with widespread iron carbonate, silica and sericite alteration, typical of an IOCG environment. The company completed a large-scale reconnaissance gravity survey on the property between the fall of 2007 and the spring of 2008, covering an area of approximately 2700 km<sup>2</sup>. The reconnaissance survey resulted in the identification of twenty eight high-priority areas. Follow-up work on the target areas was carried out during 2008 and included in-fill gravity surveys, geological

mapping, prospecting and rock sampling. Work was also completed on optioned ground in the Bass River and Londonderry areas in Colchester County and in the Copper Lake area in Antigonish County.

Yava Technologies Limited continued to work on an *in-situ* leach mining process during 2008 to recover Pb and associated by-products from the former Yava lead mine near Sydney in Cape Breton County. Work included the continuation of a geological and hydrogeological study of the property and additional metallurgical testing. The property is host to a 4.5 million ton base metal deposit in Carboniferous sandstones grading 2.79% Pb with minor zinc levels.

Tripple Uranium Resources Incorporated, a wholly owned subsidiary of Capella Resources Ltd., continued an exploration program for base metals and associated polymetallic mineralization in several area of mainland Nova Scotia during 2008. The company completed an airborne magnetometer and radiometric survey over a large portion of the South Mountain Batholith along the southern margin of the Annapolis Valley in 2007, and the 2008 exploration program was undertaken to begin follow-up work to evaluate the results of the airborne survey. The company completed a diamond-drilling program near Benjamins Hill to test a fault system adjacent to a nearby, newly discovered base metal and silver occurrence. Preliminary prospecting and rock sampling were also completed in several areas along the north boundary of the South Mountain Batholith.

Avalon Ventures Limited continued a comprehensive review of the former Rio Kemptville Tin Corporation mine at East Kemptville, Yarmouth County, during the year. Work included a detailed compilation of historical data, re-logging, sampling, and mineralogical studies of drill core from the Main Zone and the Southwestern Extension Zone, with a primary focus on developing mineable reserves of tin, indium and associated rare earth metals. The company also completed a comprehensive study of the global tin market and its impact on future development of the property. Avalon also initiated a grass-roots exploration program for tin and associated elements in the Ikes Ridge area east of the East Kemptville tin deposit. Work included geological mapping, prospecting, magnetometer surveys and soil sampling.

Table 5. Exploration programs in nova Scotia, 2008.

COMPANY/INDIVIDUAL	LOCATION	COMMODITY	PROGRAM
Acadian Mining Corporation	Big Lake, Guysborough County Brookfield Mines, Queens County Centredale, Pictou County Cochrane Hill, Guysborough County Cross Roads Ohio, Antigonish County Dufferin Mines, Halifax County Kent Lake, Halifax County Lively Brook, Hants County Moose River, Halifax County Sandy Pond, Halifax County Shubenacadie, Colchester County Tangier, Halifax County Upper Seal Harbour, Guysborough County Weaver Settlement, Digby County	Gold Gold Base metals Gold Base metals Gold Gold Base metals Gold Gold Base metals Gold Base metals	Surficial mapping, till sampling Geological mapping, rock sampling, till sampling Water sampling Geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling, till sampling Prospecting, water sampling Geological mapping, rock sampling, till sampling Till sampling Prospecting, water sampling Geological mapping, till sampling Surficial mapping Prospecting, water sampling Till sampling Geological mapping, till sampling Prospecting, rock sampling, till sampling
Alex Thomson	French Village Lake, Cape Breton County	Base metals	Prospecting, ground magnetometer and magnetic surveys
Annapolis Properties Corporation	Country Harbour, Guysborough County Isaacs Harbour, Guysborough County Killag Mines, Halifax County Lindsay Lake, Halifax County Oldham, Halifax County	Gold Gold Gold Gold Gold	Geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling, till sampling Geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling, till sampling Geological mapping, prospecting Geological mapping, rock sampling Geological mapping, rock sampling
Anthony Barrett	Deep Cove, Cape Breton County New Ross, Lunenburg County	Base metals Manganese	Geological studies Geological studies, resource evaluation
Alpha Uranium Resources Limited	Debert Lake, Colchester County Mill Village, Queens County Scraggy Lake, Halifax County Snare Lake, Colchester County	Rare earths Gold Gold Rare earths	Prospecting, rock sampling Geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling Prospecting, rock sampling, till sampling, silt sampling Prospecting, rock sampling
Avalon Ventures Limited	East Kemptville, Yarmouth County Ikes Ridge, Yarmouth County	Base metals Base metals	Drill core sampling, rock sampling, review of previous airborne geophysical surveys Geological mapping, prospecting, ground magnetometer surveys, soil sampling
Barry Boyd	Waverly, Halifax County	Gold	Prospecting, trenching
Burnt Point Resources Incorporated	Beechmont, Cape Breton County	Base metals	Geological mapping, rock sampling, IP survey
Conrad Brothers Limited.	Lake Charles, Halifax County	Aggregates, gold	Geological mapping



Table 5. Exploration programs in Nova Scotia, 2008 (cont'd).

COMPANY/INDIVIDUAL	LOCATION	COMMODITY	PROGRAM
John O'Sullivan	Cranberry Head, Yarmouth County	Gold	Geological mapping, prospecting
John Wightman	Pleasant Lake, Yarmouth County	Base metals	IP survey
Kelly Rock Limited	Glen Morrison, Cape Breton County	Limestone	Diamond-drilling
Ken Hiltz	Crousetown, Lunenburg County Pleasant River Barrens, Lunenburg County Somerset, Lunenburg County	Gold Gold Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling soil sampling Prospecting, rock sampling Prospecting, rock sampling soil sampling
Lauchie MacLean	MacIntyres Lake, Cape Breton County	Base metals	IP survey, prospecting, soil sampling
Merrex Resources Incorporated	Baddeck Forks, Victoria County Bear Brook, Colchester County Bridgeville, Pictou County Eastville, Colchester County Hazeldale, Victoria County Jubilee, Victoria County MacDonald Brook, Pictou County Middle River, Victoria County Pembroke, Colchester County River Denys, Inverness County Scrub Grass Brook, Colchester County Washabuck, Victoria County	Base metals Base metals Base metals Base metals Base metals Base metals Base metals Base metals Base metals Base metals Base metals Base metals	Geological studies, rock sampling Geological mapping, prospecting, soil sampling Geological mapping, rock sampling, water sampling Geological studies Geological studies Diamond-drilling, geological mapping, rock sampling Geological mapping, rock sampling, water sampling Diamond-drilling, geological mapping, rock sampling Water sampling Geological studies, rock sampling Water sampling Diamond-drilling, geological mapping, rock sampling
Minotaur Atlantic Exploration Limited	Bass River, Colchester County Copper Lake, Antigonish County Londonderry, Colchester County Northern mainland Nova Scotia	Copper, gold Copper, gold Copper, gold Copper, gold	Gravity survey, geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling Gravity survey, geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling Gravity survey, geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling Gravity survey, geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling
Nycon Resources Incorporated	Dufferin Mines area, Halifax County Quoddy River area, Halifax County	Gold Gold	Prospecting, soil sampling Soil sampling
Orex Exploration Incorporated	Upper Seal Harbour, Guysborough County	Gold	Diamond-drilling
Perry Bezanson	Ecum Secum, Guysborough County Moosehead, Halifax County	Gold Gold	Prospecting, rock sampling Prospecting, rock sampling
Perry MacKinnon	Cregnish River, Inverness County Glendale, Inverness County	Marble Marble	Geological mapping, prospecting, rock sampling Prospecting, rock sampling
Robert MacDonald	Gold Lake, Halifax County	Gold	Percussion drilling, basement rock sampling

**Table 5.** Exploration programs in Nova Scotia, 2008 (cont'd).

COMPANY/INDIVIDUAL	LOCATION	COMMODITY	PROGRAM
Scott Grant	West Cook Brook, Guysborough County Little Liscomb Lake, Guysborough County	Gold Gold	Geological mapping, prospecting Prospecting, rock sampling
Scozinc Limited	Gays River, Halifax/Colchester Counties	Base Metals	Diamond-drilling, soil sampling
Tripple Uranium Resources Incorporated	Benjamins Mill, Hants County South Mountain Batholith area	Base metals Base metals	Diamond-drilling Prospecting, rock sampling
United Reef Limited	Clarksville, Hants County <sup>7</sup>	Placer gold	Ground magnetometer survey
Yava Technologies Limited	Silver Mine, Cape Breton County	Lead	Geological and hydrogeological studies, metallurgical testing

Globex Mining Enterprises Limited completed a preliminary exploration program for base metals on optioned ground in the Canoe Lake and McCormicks Lake areas south of Marion Bridge in Cape Breton County. The work was undertaken to evaluate the potential for polymetallic mineralization in the underlying altered Precambrian metasediments and included prospecting, rock sampling and an IP survey. The company also completed an exploration program for base metals in the Faribault Brook area east of Cheticamp, Inverness County. Work on the property included rock sampling and a diamond-drilling program.

Gifhorse Resources Incorporated completed an exploration program for base metals in the West Avon River area, Hants County, to evaluate the base metal potential of the Lower Carboniferous Windsor Group sediments east of Windsor. Geological mapping and diamond-drilling were completed on the property during 2008. Elk Exploration Limited carried out prospecting, rock sampling and water sampling for base metals in the Bridgeville area, Pictou County.

Several individuals and private interests also carried out exploration for base metals in various parts of the province during 2008 (Table 5).

## Industrial Minerals

Exploration for industrial minerals was down significantly in 2008 in comparison to the level of activity in recent years. Current work has centered on the evaluation of carbonate resources in Cape Breton Island.

Kelly Rock Limited completed a diamond-drilling program on the Glen Morrison limestone deposit in Cape Breton County during the year.

Glencoe Resources Incorporated continued to evaluate the Glencoe limestone deposit, as well as carbonate resources in the Kewstoke area west of Whycomagh in Inverness County. Work on the properties included geological mapping, prospecting and rock sampling.

Perry MacKinnon carried out geological mapping, prospecting and rock sampling to evaluate carbonate resources in the Creignish River and Glendale areas in Inverness County.

## Coal

Exploration for coal during the year focused on Upper Carboniferous sedimentary rocks of the Sydney coal basin in southeastern Cape Breton Island.

The Donkin Coal Alliance, a joint venture between Xstrata Coal Canada Limited and Erdene Gold Incorporated, began a program in the fall of 2006 to evaluate the feasibility of re-opening the Donkin coal mine near Sydney. Initial work included the removal of the Donkin tunnel seals, followed by the dewatering and rehabilitation of the 3 500 m tunnels and a comprehensive review of

previous exploration work completed on the property. The dewatering was completed in the fall of 2007 and this was followed by the extraction of a bulk sample from the Harbour seam late in 2007. Development drilling was started at the coal face at the end of 2007. Current resources for the Harbour seam include 101 million tonnes indicated and 115 million tonnes inferred of thermal and metallurgical grade coal. Work on the project in 2008 included underground drilling and coal analyses, underground channel sampling and coal quality testing, analysis of previous seismic testing, and re-logging of drill core from previous exploration work on the property.