
**Gravity activities at the Nova Scotia Research Foundation:
1952–1995**

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Gravity surveys were started by J.E. Blanchard in 1952 employing summer students to make measurements over the Carboniferous Basins in mainland Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island for the Nova Scotia Government and various exploration companies. The gravity surveys were for a variety of purposes including oil and gas, salt, potash, and minerals. These surveys continued on an annual basis until 1966 when D.E.T. Bidgood took over the Geophysics Group at NSRF. Though contract gravity surveys continued as before, considerable emphasis was placed on improving survey procedures and reprocessing the older surveys. At the same time, the gravity data processing was computerised and software written for gravity data storage and retrieval by A. Jost and K. Howells. This was one of the first such systems in Canada. In 1971, K. Howells was given responsibility for the gravity program. Computer modeling and plotting were introduced and densities measured for Nova Scotian rocks. With the incorporation of NSRF in 1975, the emphasis was placed on contract work using in house staff. Some summer student gravity surveys, funded by the Federal Government, were carried out in northeastern Cape Breton and southeastern and central mainland Nova Scotia. Underwater gravity measurements were made in Georges and Chedabucto bays in 1972. Gravity surveys were terminated in 1988 and the Geophysics Group at NSRFC was shut down in 1992. In 1994–1995, K. Howells, I. Hawboldt and D. Clarke reprocessed approximately 37 000 of the NSRFC gravity stations. These now form the bulk of the Nova Scotia gravity database used by industry, government, and university geoscientists. These stations also form part of the National gravity database and have been used for solid earth studies.
