

**Pre-Confederation Historical Seismicity of Nova Scotia
With an Examination of Selected Later Events**

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A recent four-month archival, contract research program for the Earth Physics Branch of the Canada Department

of Energy, Mines and Resources has investigated the historical seismicity of Nova Scotia from 1752-1867. Long

runs of all available issues of long-publishing Halifax newspapers were scanned for all earthquakes and tsunami.

All earthquake references were extracted to ascertain the usefulness of the newspaper and the degree to which the journal covered seismic events, or simply used them as fillers, if at all. The Halifax 'Royal Gazette' was found not to detail local news or local earthquakes very well in the period of 1752 to 1813 when the Halifax Acadian Recorder became the local newspaper of record. The Acadian Recorder was found to be much better for the study. A twenty-year period of the Yarmouth Herald was also scanned from 1848 to 1867 to gauge the comparative coverage and to sample the Province at the southwest end where more earthquakes appear to have been felt over the last 200 years. Some 450 references were extracted in the study.

Prior to this study, only three tsunami were known to have impinged on the shores of Newfoundland; now three newly-documented tsunami are known to have affected the shores of Nova Scotia at Liverpool, in the Yarmouth area and at Cape North. A fourth tsunami has been documented for Newfoundland.

Some eight newly-documented earthquakes have been defined for Nova Scotia; two or three 'ghost' or erroneous events have been defined. One seismic event that may be related to a meteorite has been found. Significant new data for some ten previously-known Nova Scotia events have been found. Similarly, about 16 apparently newly-documented events for New Brunswick, Maine and Upper Canada may have been found with new data on some 14 other previously-known events in these areas. Only three previously-known events failed to yield new data when event-specific newspaper searches were done.