
**Dr. J. E. Blanchard, Director, Geophysics Division
(1949 – 1966), Nova Scotia Research Foundation**

DONALD E. T. BIDGOOD

9 Lashburn Place, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4B3, Canada

<dbidgood@chebucto.ns.ca>

Dr. J.E. Blanchard joined the recently established Nova Scotia Research Foundation (NSRF) in 1949. He served as Director of the Geophysics Division until 1966 when he became Vice President of NSRF. As Director he was responsible for creating the Geophysics Division with expertise in various geophysical survey methods applicable to the needs of the mining and exploration industry in Nova Scotia.

His practical and theoretical investigations helped establish the limitations of the various techniques when applied to areas with heavy glacial drift cover. By proper choice of exploration method, including gravity, resistivity, and seismic surveys, significant new information was obtained on the presence of thick sedimentary basins, and salt structures which attracted the interest of mineral exploration groups outside the province. Eventually new industry resulted.

In conjunction with other Federal and Provincial agencies his group developed new knowledge of the crust underlying the Province, and the stress factors involved in the Springhill “bumps”. When the need developed, he introduced in new equipment including the hammer seismograph, boomer and sparker continuous seismic profiling, and a slim hole gamma logging probe.

His numerous publications on applied geophysics, together with papers delivered at national and international conferences helped publicize the Province and its mineral potential. His expertise was recognized by his appointment to national and provincial geoscience advisory committees. He was a member of the Royal Society of Canada.
