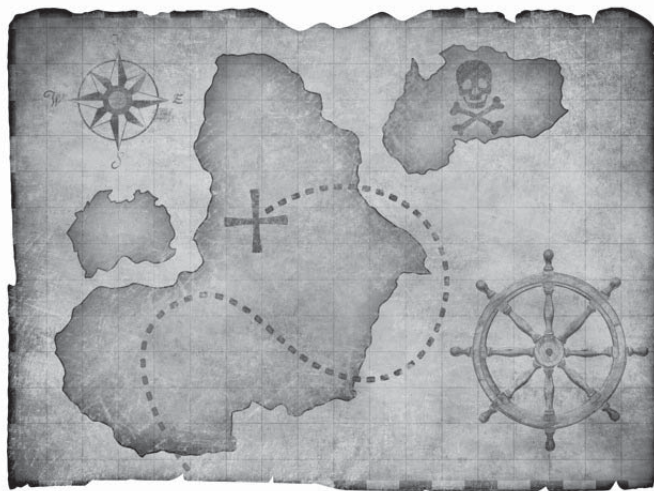


Oak Island



Over 200 years ago, a teenager named Dan McGinnis noticed a round depression four metres wide in the ground on a deserted island in Mahone Bay, south of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Overhead, he saw ropes and pulleys hanging from a tree branch.

1

Over the next few days, Dan and two friends started digging. Just below the surface, they found a layer of flagstones. Three metres down, there was a platform of oak logs. After pulling out the logs, they kept digging, only to find more logs at six metres and nine metres. Their hole was now as deep as a three-storey building. They decided to seek help.

2

Some years later, with the assistance of a financial backer and a crew of workers, the digging resumed. They found layers of logs every three metres, and additional layers of charcoal, putty, and coconut fibre.

3

At 27 metres, they found a stone plaque with a mysterious coded message. (See illustration below.) Cryptographers claim that the message says: FORTY FEET BELOW, TWO MILLION POUNDS ARE BURIED. If this is true it would mean that the pit contains a bounty of more than four million Canadian dollars!

4

