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P.O. Box 321
Mahone Bay
Nova Scotia
Canada

August 7, 1976

Robert Dunfield
Hope Bay Mines Ltd.
4419 Van Nuys Boulevard
Suite 200
P.O. Box 55067
Sherman Oaks, Calif. 91403

Dear Mr. Dunfield:

Thank you for your letter of July 12 and the accompanying Hope Bay Mines brochure. (From the description of the El Dorado ore shoots, your gold recovery prospects are much surer there than they were on Oak Island). I apologize for not getting back to you sooner; though, confirming your suspicions of lousy mail service, your letter didn't arrive here until July 21.

I shall be happy to send you a copy of the book when it is completed. The deadline for my complete manuscript is next April and then I would imagine it would take the publisher six month or so to get the book on the stands. So we're talking about sometime in the fall of 1977 if everything goes allright.

I do have some further questions about your 1965-66 operations on the island and I hope you'll be able to answer all or most of them.

1- In your letter you said your open pit was completed to 141 feet and that later drilling confirmed a two-foot layer of limestone below that, followed by a cavity to about 182 feet. Are you in effect saying the cavity was 39 feet deep from roof to floor? As far as I know, neither Triton or anyone else have drilled through cavities of more than eight feet in height. Were you able to get any idea of the lateral dimensions of this cavity? How come the 1931 Chappell shaft which went down 163 feet didn't strike this same cavity? As I understand it, perhaps wrongly, your pit was pretty well on the site of the original Money Pit, just to the west of the 1936 Hedden shaft. It seems to me you must have therefore struck the Chappell shaft as well as some of the shafts and tunnels put down by the Halifax and Truro companies in the mid-1800's. Would you have available or could you draw me a sketch of the work you did so that I can get my bearings straight? Also, I understand you excavated on the South Shore and in the Cave-in Pit. Could you detail your work and findings in those two areas?

2- In a letter to Harris (Nov. 7/66) you stated that during your excavation of the Money Pit you encountered no water except surface drainage. Is it your belief then that the flood tunnels from Smith's Cove and the South Shore had either been blocked off by your time or else were never dug all the way to the Money Pit? And on that subject, did you ever

maps or photographs that you may have collected from your work on Oak Island. Anything along those lines would be most helpful to my research into this complex and fascinating mystery.

To bring you up to date on what is happening with Oak Island, I was in Sydney last week to interview M.R. Chappell. At 89 he is still full of energy and has a memory as sharp and as clear as ever. He's excited about the fact that Dan is again doing some serious drilling on top of the Money Pit since his (M.R.'s) belief in Oak Island has always centered on the loose metal and parchment struck at 154 feet by his father in 1897.

I was on the island yesterday and Dan was down to 100 feet with his churn drill in a 10-inch hole. A couple of earlier holes in the same area (between the Hedden and Chappell shafts) had to be abandoned when the bit got diverted off line by some old steel casing at 80 feet or so. Progress on this current hole is fairly good as it is passing through backfill in your hole that went to 140 feet. After reaching the 140-foot mark Dan says he'll be sifting through everything with the hope of striking some original wood or metal. He plans to drill down below bedrock to about 200 feet and if anything of interest is hit he hopes to put a cribbed shaft in that spot. Later this month he'll also be going down Borehole 10-X again to cut holes in the side of the ~~100~~ 4-inch casing where sonar has detected the presence of cavities. With the new 1,000-gallons-per-minute pump he's got, he expects no problem keeping the hole dry.

I look forward to hearing from you again and I shall greatly appreciate any help you can give me in my research.

Sincerely,

D'Arcy O'Connor