

P.O. Box 321  
Mahone Bay  
Nova Scotia

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August 20, 1976

Dr. H.B.S. Cook  
Geology Department  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Dr. Cook:

I am currently researching and writing a book on the 181-year-old search for treasure on Oak Island. I first became interested in the subject in 1970 when I was a reporter with The Wall Street Journal. I wrote a feature article about Oak Island for the Journal that summer and then did a follow-up piece last August. I have since left the Journal to devote full time to this book.

The reason I am writing you is that I understand that several years ago you examined the remnants of what appeared to be a slipway found a few feet below the seabed just off the shore of Smith's Cove at the eastern end of the island. I would be most interested in knowing what your appraisal was of these workings in terms of their authenticity, age and possible origin.

In addition, have you or any of your associates at Dalhousie conducted any sort of geological evaluation of the Oak Island drumlin over the past few years? As you know, the large quantities of sea water underground has been the main factor that has frustrated all Oak Island searchers since 1795. While it appears this is the result of a man-made flooding system, I have always wondered about the possibility of that much natural salt water seepage being the answer. I am also curious to know whether you or any other geologist have studied the rate of erosion of the island and determined what the island might have looked like 300 or 400 years ago when the underground workings were possibly constructed.

I am most interested to get as much professional information and opinion as possible for my book regarding the geology of Oak Island and the nature of various artifacts that have been discovered over the years. I would appreciate any information or suggestions you can give me, including the names of any other persons you might know of who have done any scientific investigation into the island and its workings.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

D'Arcy O'Connor