

## Buried Treasure Yet to be Found

Oak Island is an island on the east coast of Canada. Near the southern end of Nova Scotia, it is one of about 300 small islands. It may seem small and unassuming, but the island has been shrouded in mystery since the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The story goes that a young man was playing around one afternoon on the island, when he came across something intriguing. A tree came up on the horizon, while that was not out of the ordinary, the large dip in the ground in front of the tree roughly thirteen feet wide, and the pulley like piece of equipment attached to one of the lower branches was.

The boy was intrigued, so he went home and got two friends, they started to dig down under the pulley. Within a couple of feet they hit a set of carefully laid stones. The farther they dug down the more they found intriguing layers, some made of thick wood, some of stone, and others containing coconut fibers. When they reached around the 25 or 30 foot mark they realized they would need money and equipment to go any further.

While the three original young men never did get further many others have tried, from that point on the island has passed through many hands. The "money pit" as it has been labelled, has reached depths of nearly 200 feet, has been dug to over 40 feet wide, and many more strange layers have been found. Still the mystery has yet to be solved. At one point there was said to have been a stone found, on which there was an inscription stating that a treasure lay 20 feet beyond that point. The marker, if there ever was one has since been lost.

Some owners have kept the island private, while others have allowed visitors to the island. In 2005 the pit was sold yet again. Currently (as of March 2007) the island around where the money pit is located is off limits to anyone not invited. Digging is still going on, and it is often wondered if the money pit is so-called because of what it will hopefully yield, or because of the money that has gone into trying to find its secrets.



(Oak Island in March 2007, Photo courtesy of Melissa Feaver)

There are many rumours as to who buried the loot at the bottom of the shaft. Many believe that it was Captain William Kidd, as there was a story of him hiding a large stash somewhere east of Boston. As vague as that is, it is enough to convince some people that there is a good possibility that this is it. Many other stories of unknown pirates and sailors depositing their treasures, or spoils on the island abound, all adding to the mystery of the pit.

This pit is one of the major mysteries of the past few centuries. Many feel that it may never be solved. Is there really a treasure? Who dug the pit in the first place? How did they dig it, considering that even with modern technology the pit still floods constantly making digging any farther next to impossible? This mystery has been raging on for centuries, with people losing fortunes all while trying to find one, and it does not look like there is an end in sight.

Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak\\_Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak_Island)  
<http://www.unmuseum.org/oakisl.htm>  
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