

Californian petroleum geologist Robert Dunfield this week called a temporary halt to his treasure hunt on Nova Scotia's famed treasure spot, Oak Island.

Here he talks to Staff Writer SCOTT BRIGLEY about his search.

# I'll Never Rest...

—SAYS DUNFIELD

BRIGLEY: Mr. Dunfield, in your opinion is there a treasure on Oak Island?

DUNFIELD: Well, this remains to be found. This is a job we have to finish. At this point we have had very little evidence, but there is sufficient evidence of original work to continue the program.

BRIGLEY: How much do you estimate this hunt has cost you and your associates to date?

DUNFIELD: It's in the neighborhood of \$130,000.

BRIGLEY: Why are you leaving Nova Scotia and will you return?

DUNFIELD: I'll return to finish the job. The reason for leaving is I have quite a few affairs to straighten out in California and also the island with the inclement weather and rain, of course; as you would imagine it's real muddy and we have to get it in a workable state before we can continue.

BRIGLEY: You arrived in the province in July for the challenge of solving the riddle of the island, first with the Restall expedition and later directing your own operation. In this time do you have any material evidence

## "I don't think it's a lost cause..."

that this hunt is making progress and not a lost cause?

DUNFIELD: Well, I don't think it's a lost cause. We have sufficient evidence now of where the Windsor formation is and this is the answer to the water problem. Until I learned something of the product of our work I felt like a freight train with all slack taken out of it.

(On Monday, the 39-year-old geologist announced that the area of the money pit, the site commonly believed where the legendary fortune is buried, is part of a underground natural rock structure of carbonates as in materials such as limestone, etc.)

BRIGLEY: How long will you remain searching on Oak Island?

DUNFIELD: Whatever time it takes to finish this thing, and we have got quite a problem here yet. I think we have recovered one of the main answers right now. We know where the water is coming from and there are no flood tunnels. We have gained this much information and this sort of excludes every area of the island except Smith's Cove as far as I am concerned.

BRIGLEY: Do you have any indication that treasure



Robert Dunfield

could be buried at Smith's Cove and not where you have previously concentrated most of your efforts?

DUNFIELD: I think this is a very rational view.

BRIGLEY: What technique will you employ at Smith's Cove (the south west corner of the island) upon your return?

DUNFIELD: We tried digging this site with a machine before. We got down about 15 feet in it . . . and this is an original hole, ringed with rocks.

BRIGLEY: When do you expect to return?

DUNFIELD: As soon as it dries up (the island mud situation), I would think . . . but who can predict Nova Scotia weather? I can't.

BRIGLEY: Oak Island is owned by Mel R. Chappell of Sydney. What is the length of your agreement to search for the fabled booty there?

DUNFIELD: Well, we should have things resolved by August 31 or an extension may be required.

BRIGLEY: Mr. Dunfield, what has been the biggest obstacle in your pursuit of answers on Oak Island?

DUNFIELD: Obstacles, there are hundreds of them—keeping machines in repair, getting parts, weather conditions . . .

BRIGLEY: Are you optimistic that on your return to the island you will find what you are seeking?

DUNFIELD: Put it this way, I would think we can get the answers we have to know.

BRIGLEY: Within the period up to August?

DUNFIELD: I would think so.

BRIGLEY: Mr. Dunfield, can you sum up in a few words your determination in this search?

DUNFIELD: We will investigate every possibility and all original work there must be explored. There is just no two ways about this—we intend to do it. I could never rest unless I did. I don't know how it will come out, but I'll go as far as I can.

(The Dunfields leave for California via Montreal today.)