

CoOI S12 E16 Open Sesame

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Synopsis by Jan Anderson

War Room

The team is meeting with Vanessa from ROC Equipment and Adam from SB Canada to discuss how to proceed with this year's drill program in the Money Pit. Rick asks Vanessa and Adam to review what problems they have encountered and what they recommend should be done next. Vanessa explains that she does not want to set up her equipment on shafts they have just drilled because of settling. Adam suggests turning the equipment so it will not be over the compromised area. Marty suggests that the next site should be Aladdin's Cave. Vanessa asks about the cave's dimensions, and Steve tells her it is about 20 feet by 20 feet and the cave is about 12 feet in depth. Everyone agrees this is the best place for the next dig.

Swamp

Rick, Tom, Jack, and Katya are continuing work in the northern part of the swamp. Rick points out the red flags that have been used to mark where they believe more survey stakes will be found. Alan begins to dig, and as the group begins to search, Rick finds a wooden plank and then a stake. The group continues to search and finds more stakes, but these are not in line with the other stakes. Rick wants to have Steve come out and take measurements. Once that is done, they will remove the board and dig deeper under it. The next day, Tom, Jack, Gary, and Alan are continuing the search for features and clues in the northern part of the swamp. As the next scoop of dirt is pulled back, more rocks and cobbles are found, but it seems to end. Tom wonders if it stopped and a platform was built to cross over to the other pile of cobble. Gary scans the area and finds a piece of iron. Jack pulls out a large metal pin that they think could be a wharf pin.

Lot 5

Jack, Helen, Fiona, and Ethan are working on a 15-foot by 15-foot test pit south of the rounded stone foundation. Fiona finds a piece of glazed brick that has glaze on all sides. She tells Jack this will help determine the size of the brick. Jack asks if they can determine where the brick came from, and she tells Jack they are working on a database.

Money Pit

Digging has begun on AC 1 and they are nearing a depth of 100 feet. The hammer grab brings up the next scoop of spoils, and it contains large pieces of wood. Vanessa arrives and says they are at 96 feet and have hit something. Rick and Gary think they have hit a tunnel and that the timbers are hand-hewn. Gary scans the timbers and says he is not getting any metal hits. The next hammer grab arrives, and it is also full of wood. Scott arrives and shows the group a spike that was found in the spoils at the washplant. Gary examines the spike and says he thinks it could be from the 1600s or it could be older. Rick wants dendro done on the wood, and he also wants the spike analyzed. Vanessa arrives and tells the group they are at 115 feet. The next day, John tells Vanessa that pressures are spiking some, but then it drops. Vanessa thinks they could be breaking through the cave. Vanessa tells Rick and the other members of the group that she thinks they are breaking into the cave. Rick wants to put a camera down the shaft and tells Vanessa to use the flocculent to clear the water overnight.

The Lab

Rick and Scott are meeting with Laird, Emma, and Moya to hear test results on the brick artifacts that have been found on the island. Moya says there are two bricks from Lot 5, one from Smith's Cove, and two bricks from the vault in the Swamp. The samples were tested by an X-ray diffraction device to examine the chemical makeup of the bricks and their physical properties to help determine when they were created. Moya tells the group that the bricks from

Lot 5 and Smith's Cove were very similar in composition. She then tells them these bricks also matched compositionally to a sample from Brick Hill, a local brick-making company. Laird then tells them it is a brick kiln from the 1600s and that they have not found a brick feature, and the bricks they are finding on Lot 5 are in the backfill. Next, Moya tells them that the bricks found in the swamp fit more with other local 1800s bricks that Helen and Laird have provided.

War Room

The team is meeting to hear the results of testing done on a spike found in spoils from between 90 and 110 feet. Emma shows the group the XRM scan and the CT scan of the spike. She tells them it is wrought iron and it is a rosehead spike. Next, she tells them it is hand forged, and the composition is minimal. She then tells them the spike contains a lot of sulfur and phosphorous, which indicates it is likely English in origin. She also tells them there is a potassium content throughout the spike, and that indicates a charcoal furnace was used and not a coal furnace. She tells them the most recent date for this would be the mid-1700s and possibly earlier. Doug mentions that several theories fit that time frame, and one would be the William Phips theory.