

Members Only tour of Oak Island

On the evening of Thursday 18th June, members of the Oak Island Tourism Society journeyed to Oak Island for the first of the tours for Explore Oak Island Days 2009.

Much of the Island was just as we had seen on previous tours. For me, this was my fourth visit over to Nova Scotia and Oak Island so I was keen to see the place I'd become so familiar with over the past eight years of running this website.

One benefit of being a member of the Oak Island Tourism Society is the members tour, during which you are taken to different places not shown on the regular weekend tours. One such place was the Ball Foundation - once a home to Samuel Ball, a once black slave who had taken the name of his master and lived on Oak Island as a farmer.

We were also shown a number of inscribed stones on the island. There is much confusion, as with all things related to Oak Island, whether these were created by those who engineered the Money Pit, or by bored excavators on their break, adding another layer of mystery to Oak Island.

Of particular interest was the recent fire damage and clearance of Oak Island. We had recently heard that Oak Island had caught fire after some vegetation clearance had taken place.

Those who toured Oak Island for last years' Explore Oak Island Days would have seen a new site of interest - some exploratory drill holes. It was around this very area that the clearance had taken place, leading many to suspect that this is where efforts may focus during excavations. It would make sense too, as without removing trees and scrub in the area, it would be impossible to manoeuvre heavy equipment for drilling.

It was great to be back on Oak Island and see the sights which have captured my imagination since I was a child. Thanks to the Oak Island Tourism Society for arranging Explore Oak Island Days and the owners of the island for granting permission for the event to take place.

Watch our short video of the Explore Oak Island Days event on YouTube.