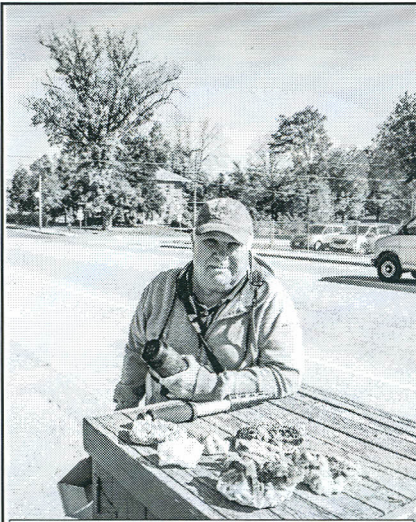


A VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE HILLS - MARMORA MINE TOUR FEATURES BREATHTAKING VISTAS OF FALL COLOUR



Ron Barrons brought minerals from his Dad's collection to share with others on the tour.



Naylor's Common and Marmora from the top of the Marmoraton Mine hills

A warm bright, October 15, with the colours still at a peak, and a trip to the top of the Marmora Mine was a breathtaking adventure for two busloads of sightseers. Cathie Jones of the Marmora Historical Society planned this unique first time excursion to the place so many of us had only heard about from others who had worked on the site, to bring up the iron ore and countless associated minerals to the surface over the period of 1953 to 1978. Annual production used 3.1 million tons of rock to produce 520,000 tons of pellets. (from Marmora Historical Society). All those years, the overburden of limestone was stripped first from the first 130 feet, and then the excess rock was stored in the growing hills to the west of the pit, till today, the buses fully loaded with sightseers travelled up the long winding roads to the top of the cliffs.

The scenery is nothing short of spectacular, in all directions. To the west and north, the water tower and church spires of Marmora nestled among the colourful fall foliage; the same colours predominate wherever we looked, whether to the south west and a visible bend of the Crowe River, to the south toward Stirling and Belleville, and to the east with miles and miles of yellows, reds and oranges painting the scene.

Ron Barrons, whose father, Harry had worked at the mine site for all the years of its operation, looked out in appreciation of the moving scene to be enjoyed. "I remember Dad took me down into the pit one day when he worked here, and it was then that I could really appreciate what the men had to go through on each shift. It was extremely hard work, yes, but Dad was a farmer and outdoorsman. To be in that sunken hole in the ground, unable to see anything but rock and sky all the time, that must have been so hard, and yet, they all did the job, they stayed on the job." Today, Ron was able to appreciate all the beauty around, so many years after the mine has closed. Ron kindly brought a box of rocks that his father had saved over the years, of many kinds of minerals, including attractive quartz and/or crystal to share with others on the outing.

People were advised to bring baskets or bags to the site, so that they could gather their own interesting rocks to take home. In addition to the rock collecting, photographers and videographers were ecstatic about the opportunity for such wonderful vistas to be enjoyed. Doug Prindle of Marmora TV brought his camera equipment and video drone to gather the overhead views of the mine and the area, as well as those who combed the surface for their treasures, or themselves snapped away filling their digital cards.

Right: Doug Prindle, Marmora TV prepares his drone to film the view from the mine site over the beautiful hills and Crowe River of Central Hastings during the mine tour held October 15. Others along for the excursion were interested to see the workings of the new technology, while preparing to take their own digital photos.



Cathie Jones of the Marmora Historical Foundation, and organizer of the tour states: "Thank you to everyone who joined in the Marmora Historical Foundation Bus Trip to the top of the mine. A special thanks to Foley Bus Lines and our driver, Mary Gauthier, Tanya Woodrow at the gate, Doug Prindle for filming with the drone, and Craig Potter for water."