



JENN WATT/Echo

Trish Manning shows Melissa Bramham her find of apatite at the Bear Lake occurrence near Gooderham.



Geologist John Etches outlines one of the smooth edges of a piece of mica.

Being a rock hound is a dirty job involving both finesse and an eye for precious rocks.



■ HALIBURTON ROCKS

Eco tour leads rock hounds to their prey

JENN WATT

Staff Reporter

The wealth of beautiful rocks just under the surface of the landscape at Green Mantle Farms on Essonville Line “blew away” Carnarvon artist Judy Breau on her Haliburton Rocks tour Saturday morning.

The mosaic artist came on the tour to learn more about what can be found in the earth that could be integrated into her own work and she came away impressed.

“I now know that I know nothing [about rocks],” Breau said after finishing a lunch of wild leek soup at the home of Mark and Sandra Bramham halfway through her tour.

The group of eight went on to the Bear Lake occurrence on Glamor Road to get dirty and find some rocks to take home.

There they mined, picked and whisked large chunks of green apatite, flat hexagonal mica and horn blende from the calcite rock with geologist John Etches leading the way.

The best specimen of apatite was found by rock hound newbie Trish Manning, from Muskoka, which had the much-desired terminated end in a crystal formation.

Haliburton Rocks is run by Barrie Martin’s company Yours Outdoors that does learning adventures around the county. Any group of six or more people can contact Martin to put together an afternoon digging rocks and learning about local geology or join one of his pre-planned tours with others. Go to www.yoursoutdoors.ca for more information.