

2026 Covia Canada - Blue Mountain Plant Open house event August 22, 2026

Dan welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming. We discussed the feedback we received in 2025 and worked to make the presentation less technical. We had a great turnout this year and it was nice to see so many of our neighbors interested in what we do here!

Dan proceeded to go through the presentation and explained what our product is “Nepheline” and how it is used by our customers and end products that use Nepheline.

We discussed the Nepton temporary suspension of activities in Q4 2025 and general market/business conditions.

We held a “Guess the rock contest” actual size of the rock we had for the contest was: 6700 lbs and our winners were:

1st and 2nd place prize, there was actually a tie between Kathy Griffiths and Richard Sithole – both guessing 6300 lbs.

3rd place – Peter Vice with his guess – 6255lbs.

Dan explained our actual plant process from beginning to end and what the different size of the sand products that we produce and fine grind products. Our products are shipped in bulk trucks rail cars as well as packaged material in vans.

Question and answer period:

Question - How do you get moisture out of your product?

Answer- The moisture is only around 1-2 percent and, it is dried in rotary dryers that remove surface moisture. If we bring 100 tons of rock, we produce approximately 70 tons of product. We lose 30 % through magnetic separation and dust collection processes.

The only raw material input that we do use in our process is “flocculant” which is a long chain polymer used to bind the fine particles into larger clumps so their settle out of process water faster. We use around 3kg per day.

Question - With your original tailings plan, will it be covered, or is it? You say you cover with straw?



Answer - Our tailings are covered with hay or straw to keep the dust down. What is interesting is that the tailings consist of 10% sodium and 5% potassium and that is why it does support vegetable growth.

Question - Is that what is happening at the Nephton plant as well?

Answer- Yes same process applies at both of our locations.

Question - Do you use the water out of Big Mountain Lake?

Answer – Yes, we do, but less substantially

Question - Is most of the product shipped by rail?

Answer – 55-60% ships by rail

Question - Did the truck traffic increase now on County Road 46 now that the Nephton Plant is not operational?

Answer – Nephton was producing 500 tons of packaged product per week and this is now produced at Blue Mountain

Question - What is the percentage of your product or waste is going to tailings?

Answer - Yield is 68-75%, the rest goes out to tailings.

Brett Jeffs welcomed everyone and started going through the environmental presentation.

We are regulated with the Ministry and there are 3 Provincial and 2 Federal legislations that we have to follow.

Question - Does the Ministry come on site to do inspections?

Answer – Yes, the Ministry of Environment along with the Ministry of Labour have been on site but the Ministry of the Environment have not been on site since 2024.

Question – Do you have a lot of Phragmites on site?

Answer – Yes, there is a lot but, we can't put anything in the water. We are not able to put any herbicides down. The Ministry can, and they will have to address those issues, unfortunately we can't help with that.

Question – How much product is here in the ground?

Answer - We have 60 years of product in the ground.

Question – With the Nephton closure, is there any update when the rail will stop or are they going to fix the culvert that has been in question?

Answer - We do have a closure plan that has to be strictly followed when we actually close the plant but, we are not sure at this point when that will be. As for the culvert, we don't have anything to do with that, CP Rail is aware of it and that is on them to fix it not us. We do keep mentioning to the proper authorities that it does need to be addressed.

Cale Reeder spoke up and mentioned that it would probably be a good idea if you as a concerned cottager mention it to them as well.

Question - Is there any talk about fixing the tracks?

Answer – We haven't heard anything as of yet. The infrastructure needs to be looked at.

Question – Are you done with the modernization project?

Answer - We are still investing money yes, and we will continue to upgrade until we get this plant up to its maximum production capabilities.

Ontario Turtle Trauma Centre started their presentation – we are the only turtle hospital in Ontario. We surpassed 2000 turtles for 2026. The turtle shell is made of bone (similar if a human breaks a bone) that is why it is able to fuse back together but it does take time. Longer than a human healing a broken bone.

The ambassador turtles: **Andrea** – turtle- was introduced to the group – she is a Blanding turtle and she was hit by a car 2005 they can live to 80 years old. 15-20 years to reach maturity.

She suffered head trauma and unfortunately is blind so that is why we can't release her back into the wild. We will be keeping her.

Rusty is the other turtle that was brought, he is endangered species. He is a Wood turtle. He was part of a research study from 1993 and he was studied for 20 years then in 2017 had been attacked by a racoon and lost his front legs. We have to keep him and feed him as he wouldn't be able to fend for himself.

Question - What is your percentage of recovery?

Answer - It varies each year but out of 4000 eggs, we released 2000 hatchlings so that is about 40-50 % hatch which is great.

Questions - Your rehab turtles, do they get released?



Answer – Yes, usually within 1km of where they were found that's why we need to know where you find them. It is helpful to give us the closest address to where you find them so we can return them close to that location.

Question - Do you have a breeding program?

Answer – No, there are a lot of considerations with that and we don't have the resources for that so we focus on hospital functions and getting them better if we can.

Question – What happens with the eggs and the hatchlings?

Answer - The mother leaves them as soon as she lays the eggs so they become very adaptable to survival. They hatch on their own and then go directly to the nearest water source.

We ended the day with a tour of our Quarry so all of the visitors got to see where the rock comes from. We had 3 buses on site and all 3 buses were full.

We thanked everyone for attending and hope to see them next year.