

# COVIA 2022 Open House Report – August 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

*by Chris Bradley and Lelia Macdonald*

I was at today's tour and Lelia was there on Wednesday. The tours were well-attended, probably 50+ each day. As usual the main topics were what nepheline syenite is used for and what Covia does to reduce their environmental impact (dust, noise).

Additionally, they talked about the long-delayed process of closing down the Nephton plant. Here is more information on the operational changes.

All the new equipment at the Blue Mountain site is installed and functioning, but needs adjusting, so the site is operating at 60% capacity. Once it is reliably operating at 100%, they will "shutter" the Nephton site but not take the buildings down for a few years.

As for a prediction concerning noise on the lake by summer:

- There is over 50% chance that the mine will be shuttered and there will be no noise or hum from the mine.
- If the mine is shuttered, there will be no truck noise. If the mine is still operating, there will be only 1 truck (vs 4 trucks regularly).
- Currently, the Blue Mountain site operates 24/7. The Nephton site operates 24 hours for Mon-Fri only.

Here are a couple of photos I took during the bus tour, one at the bottom of the pit (which is approximately 400 feet deep) and one at an observation point at Mathers Ridge, which we stopped at between Blue Mountain and Nephton.

