

LOOW makes us all soldiers in pollution war

It would appear that as of this morning, there is no one living near, or not far from, the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works who doesn't want to get rid of it and forget it — if they can.

I looked through the newspapers the past few months and could not find the name of anyone who wants the federal government to come in and fool around with 190 acres of land full of radioactive waste.

As of yesterday afternoon, when my poll was completed, 47 people had said they would like the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works cleaned up and decommissioned.

I could not find anyone who favors stirring up muddy pools that glow in the dark and putting more of it there from someplace else.

Jerauld E. Brydges



When it comes to the matter of what they call "the LOOOOWWWW," Republicans and Democrats shed party labels — especially when they live nearby. People like Jimmy Lombardi who is a Republican and Joan Gipp who is a Democrat.

And John Daly who is a Republican and Al Ogg who is a Democrat.

But last Thursday night, and again on Saturday morning, we had to go through the motions, because federal regulations require an "environmental impact statement" be made on projects that might affect the air we breathe or the water we drink or the streams in which we fish and swim.

Al Mac Bain, a member of the Canadian Parliament, came across the river Saturday morning to tell a story about a disaster in England that took 25 years to happen.

Al Mac Bain, after describing the indescribable beauty of the Niagara region that both countries share, talked about a fire in England that permitted the escape of low-

level radioactive wastes.

"It was considered not injurious at the time, but they wrote the final chapter this week," Al Mac Bain said. And he began giving the statistics that come with disasters that take a long time.

The deaths. The long, slow creeping deaths that can result from low-level radioactivity. Or from the improper dumping of toxic chemicals.

Al Mac Bain never shouted. He kept his anger inside and when you do that, you shake for a few minutes when you sit down.

"We are the foot soldiers in the war against the pollution of our environment," Al Mac Bain said Saturday morning. "And enough is enough."

Al Mac Bain was No. 47.

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The lowdown on LOOW

Is there anyone out there that thinks radioactive wastes can be stored at the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works in the town of Lewiston? Gazette columnist Jerauld E. Brydges hasn't found one solitary soul. Page 3A