

## Lewiston still living with Manhattan Project waste

By Teresa H. Sharp

*Niagara Gazette*

TOWN OF LEWISTON — Richard A. Jackson has lived in his well-kept Lewiston ranch with the large country lot since 1960.

"We moved from the village," he said. "When I moved out here it was just farm property. That's what I thought we were getting into."

But Jackson and his family got more than they bargained for.

The Pletcher Road family ended up being one of the closest residential neighbors to the Niagara Falls Storage Site, the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works. Unbeknownst to residents at the time, because the site had previously been designated an ordnance works for the production of TNT in 1942, the area became a storage site for the Manhattan

Project's high- and low-level radioactive wastes and residues beginning in 1944.

And those wastes and residues from the creation of the first atomic bomb are still buried at the 191-acre Lewiston site today.

This includes: roughly two pounds of radium—or one-third of the world's mined supply; 250,000 cubic yards of radioactively contaminated materials (soil and sludge); 15,000 cubic yards of high-level residues from the processing of uranium ores; and thousands of dead animals used in testing to arrive at standards for radiation exposure.

A clay cap was placed on the "Interim Waste Containment Facility" at the site in 1986, after a five-year cleanup that cost more

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*Please see* **Lewiston, 3A**

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