

Residents want check of Lew-Port campus

By Susan Mikula Campbell
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LEWISTON — Local environmentalists are hoping news about photos showing activity in the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works buffer zone during World War II will prompt the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education to approve further testing on the campus.

Ann Roberts, vice chairman of Porter's Residents for Responsible Government, said either she or her husband and fellow chemist, Geraint, plan to speak at the 7 p.m. school board meeting today in the Primary Building.

Roberts has seen the Army Corps of Engineers 1944 photos that show evidence of "ground disturbance" in 120

areas within the buffer zone during a time when the Department of Defense was actively working the site.

"We're going to be asking the board to make it a priority to get the school campus tested," she said. "If you accept there is a potential risk, you need to carry on a comprehensive testing program on the Lewiston-Porter campus to determine whether there is a problem, or give the community the reassurance it deserves."

Joseph Gardella, state University at Buffalo professor of chemistry, is expected to make a presentation at the meeting on the cost of a three-phase testing program at the campus.

Roberts said four of the 120 areas identified in the

previously classified photographs are located on the school campus. Residents have told RRG members that they remember activity and careless dumping in the buffer zone, Roberts said.

Nils Olsen, school board member and member of the former Corps of Engineers' local Restoration Advisory Board, said he has always been in favor of doing more testing on the campus and arranged for Gardella to present a plan to the school board.

"It is important to determine what the situation is once and for all," he said.

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