



Dan Cappellazzo/Niagara Gazette

LOOKING: Ann Roberts and Sara Muscarella speak with University at Buffalo public health graduate student Steven Cosme as he places a site marker on an athletic practice field. Behind him, residents Bill Choboy and Lynn Zanardi look over a map of the area.

Two take part in Lew-Port walkover

By Susan Mikula Campbell
Niagara Gazette

PORTER — Community members will have a last chance to give input on where soil samples should be taken from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Lewiston-Porter campus.

Only two residents came to the campus Thursday afternoon as the team from the state University at Buffalo Environment and Society Institute began placing location stakes at spots where soil samples will be collected Monday.

The Board of Education approved the soil sampling in hopes of putting to rest community concerns that the campus might be contaminated by the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site.

Lew-Port parent Lynn Zanardi and Porter Councilman Bill Choboy, both members of Residents for Responsible Government, were on hand as Steven Cosme, UB masters in public health student, placed the first stake. Working with the UB team are Ann Roberts, chairwoman of the LOOW Restoration Advisory Board, and teacher Sarah Muscarella, who is acting as the school/community liaison.

Roberts wanted to be sure that one of the areas sampled was the south-

More information

■ To see the map and survey of the campus, check www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~gardella/lewport/.

■ To contact Joe Gardella, who is heading the project on behalf of the state University at Buffalo Environment and Society Institute, write to lewportsoilstudy@yahoo.com.

■ To contact Sarah Muscarella, Lew-Port school/community liaison for the project, call 754-8281, ext. 2221.

west drainage ditch from the LOOW site that curves through the back of the campus behind the playing fields. LOOW was the site of government activity, including storage of radioactive waste, during the 1940s.

"If the ditch comes up clean, I'll be highly relieved because my kids have been running through it," she said, noting that students have used the ditch area for cross country running and an orienteering program.

Cosme planned to mark testing sites not only behind the campus but in the front along Creek Road.

Among the residents' concerns collected was that the trucks constantly passing the school on the way to Chemical Waste Management might

have contaminated the soil.

Cosme said the 40 soil samples at different locations around the campus will be taken at least two to four inches deep and 100 feet apart.

"I've been concerned for several years as a parent, very concerned," said Zanardi. "Just being here today saddens, depresses and worries me. Our peace of mind is at stake."

Choboy said the independent study should answer residents' questions, since the residents themselves are the stakeholders and directing the project, not government agencies.

"(Former school superintendent Walter) Polka used to wave that piece of paper around saying, 'It's clean, it's clean,'" Choboy said. "There were people who didn't really believe it."

Cosme said anyone interested in participating in Saturday's walkover of the campus should meet in the team's project office at 3 p.m.

The office is located across from the Board of Education meeting room in the Primary Building, last building to the north on the Creek Road campus.

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