

# Sentin

LEWISTON-PORTER

Vol. 19 No. 4

March 25, 2006

24 Pages

## RRG honors Maziarz, DelMonte; gets update on DEC Siting Plan

*Photo and story  
by Terry Duffy*

Residents for Responsible Government honored the efforts of the area's two state representatives last Saturday in working towards a new Department of Environmental Conservation draft Siting Plan – still not finalized – which seeks to establish once and for all, a new, equitable location in New York for placement of hazardous waste operations and remove the town of Porter from having to continue as the lone designated community.

A nearly two-decades long endeavor pursued by various Niagara County interests unhappy with CWM Chemical Services, which operates a 730-acre hazardous waste landfill in the town of Porter, the Siting Plan directive to DEC dates first from late 1980s-era legislation and then a 1994 state Supreme Court order which called on the state agency to act with "utmost of speed."

Those directives went basically



State Sen. George Maziarz and Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte, shown with Residents for Responsible Government President Vince Agnello, were honored by RRG for their efforts in getting an equitable Siting Plan passed in Albany. However, concerns remain, as DEC has yet to finalize the document.

unanswered by DEC until 2001, when again following significant community pressure, efforts intensified on the state level, this time by State Sen. George Maziarz R-62nd

**continued on page 19**

### Attendees urged to keep up pressure on DEC

**continued from page 19**

right now is that DEC is in the midst of settling a CWM suit filed in response to state disposal fees imposed on waste traveling from in-state generators to CWM. Previously the waste fee had only been applied on waste traveling into the state. Now the fee affects all waste. "To date, CWM has withheld \$45 million in fees," Maziarz pointed out.

But nonetheless, "We do have to get this Siting Plan established. There will be no surprises. We'll keep our eye on this," said

gathered.

"It's just not right," DelMonte charged of DEC's continued indifference. "No one community should be burdened by this."

From that point the session moved to a Q&A forum where questions were raised not only of DEC and CWM but the entire LOOW site, where significant concerns from radiation to PCBs continue to haunt the area. Throughout the session, attendees were told that they had to keep the heat on. "There are plenty of opportunities for communities to influence this (the

Siting Plan)," commented Dr. Sue Seneca, who works for Maziarz' office on environmental concerns.

RRG President Vince Agnello agreed. "We have become a major player across Western New York and across the state," he said of RRG's efforts and those of northern county residents. "They (DEC) now recognize they cannot just walk all over everybody and rule on this as they want to."

"They are afraid of us. We need to keep up the pressure."