

# Local reaction to reactor captured on tape

By Sarah Henry  
*Citizen staff writer*

A year ago, rumors abounded in Fitzroy Harbor concerning the possibility that Ontario Hydro would build a nuclear generating station near town.

The rumors are gone, replaced by one of the most systematic and inventive information exchanges ever encountered by Hydro officials.

Throughout the summer, local residents were asked how they felt about

Chats Falls, near Fitzroy Harbor, as a site for a \$4-billion nuclear power plant. Their views were recorded on videotape and will be shared at community hall meetings with other residents, equally concerned about the possible Hydro project.

The joint Ottawa Cablevision and Algonquin College videotape project "has great potential for reaching a wider audience than usual," Ontario Hydro official Jim Dunn said Monday.

He was among the local planners, committee members, community college and cablevision representatives attending the first screening of a half-hour sequence of interviews.

## Safety features

"The project is being watched closely (by Ontario Hydro) because it hasn't been done this way before," he said.

The citizens interviewed on videotape expressed

concern about safety features and the effects of such a plant on the environment, particularly the Ottawa River. In September, a University of Ottawa biologist expressed concern that earthquakes and human error could cause leakage or melting of the reactor at Chats Falls. He also said pollution in the Ottawa River could not be diluted enough to prevent serious problems.

Others wanted to know how many jobs the project would create, and whether the influx of technicians needed to build such a station would disrupt traffic plans and the life of the townspeople.

Several others said they were worried about disposal of radioactive waste from a nuclear plant and wondered whether other energy alternatives wouldn't fulfil future elec-

tricity needs just as well.

Dunn said the cablevision film would be shown to experts in nuclear technology who will, in turn, respond to concerns expressed on videotape. Both television shows can then be edited together by Ottawa Cablevision and shown to residents attending meetings in Fitzroy Harbor.

## More information

Seven months ago, the Chats Falls Municipal Coordinating Committee, a group of about 20 residents appointed by area Reeves and mayors, studied the issue, frequently calling on scientists and other experts for advice. Since then, residents have met at town hall meetings to air their views and ask for more information.

Ontario Hydro will decide in mid-January

whether it will continue its investigation of Fitzroy as a potential site for a nuclear station.

If so, the utility will expand the preliminary studies it began a year ago, before making a final decision on the feasibility of the site in the spring of 1979.

Other locations being considered for the two nuclear plants which Ontario Hydro wants to build include Lennox, near Kingston, Wesleyville at Port Hope, and Darlington, close to Oshawa.

A nuclear generating station at Fitzroy, if built, would be about the size of the Pickering Generating Station. At the peak of construction it would employ 3,500 people but when complete, in 1987, would require only about 350 permanent skilled employees, Dunn said.

# Bodies recovered in Nfld.

CHURCHILL FALLS, Nfld. (CP) — Eight bodies were recovered Monday from the wreckage of an executive jet that crashed two miles from the airport here Friday.

Four of the victims were senior executives in the hydro business, the only

industry in this isolated community of 1,100 people.

A blizzard kept police from searching for the twin-engine Hawker Siddeley 125 until Sunday, when bodies and wreckage were found strewn around the crash site.

All aboard the plane —

the vice-president of Churchill Falls Labrador Corp. and his wife, the corporation's treasurer, its superintendent, the vice-president of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, the wife of the Churchill Falls airport manager and both pilots — were killed.