

Halton farmers told

Farmers dominated by urban politicians

by Bob Burt
Farm groups stand little chance of preserving large tracts of agricultural land unless farmers in Ontario join together and present a unified force, Professor Hadwin of the University of Guelph told about 30 Halton farmers at a meeting in Milton Thursday night.

Hadwin said there was no unified force speaking for farmers. He noted a definite lack of togetherness and claimed cash crop farmers wouldn't support dairy farmers and dairy farmers wouldn't support beef raisers in a crunch.

Speaking to members of Halton Federation of Agriculture, he referred to the Federation as representing the "elite" of agriculture. "Those of you who come to meetings aren't representative of farm people. You're more apt to be scientific bent, a little better off than others. That's something to be proud of, but it is something to be concerned about too," he said, noting that as long as that situation exists the association can't speak for the farming community as a whole.

"Dinosaur"
Hadwin said provincial and federal civil servants consider the family farm "a dinosaur, the sooner it is extinct, the better."
"They'd like family farms

to dry up and blow away," Hadwin said. He noted the civil servants he had spoken with hadn't made those feelings known publicly, but privately.

Hadwin said he didn't think the family farm would become extinct. "I think they'll be around for a long time. I don't think farmers are ready to grow what they are told and when they are told. I don't think they are ready to turn their farms over to government."

Hadwin also dealt with the problems of city people moving to the country and occupying agricultural land. He said there were two types of part time farmers. There is the part time farmer who plays at it, "you know, like honest earth day" and then there is the other type who takes another job in a factory or plowing snow in winter to subsidize an inadequate income on the farm.

Dangerous people
"Some people come to rural Ontario just for the summer months. These are dangerous people. They don't want to live in rural Ontario but a park—a place where nothing changes, where nothing smells, where there are no gravel pits. They like to see the local people do quaint dances."

He said "these people bring with them demands for calcium on the road. They don't want dust, that is a little

too rural. They bring demands for bussing, for road improvements, for sewers, all things that would be unreasonable for the people who have always been there."

Hadwin observed many city dwellers object to odors and when the argument goes before the Ontario Municipal Board, the Board will favor the city person and his complaints.

He pointed out that once land parcels were separated, the door was open for someone from the city. He argued that even if the person buying the land initially kept the land in agriculture, chances were a city person would buy it when the owner died.

Need rationale
He said there was no general agreement about what should be saved. "It's not as simple as saying we'll save class one and class two lands. What about the corner of Yonge and Bloor? What about 10 miles from the city? Where do you draw the rationale?" he asked.

He said many farm people wanted their cake and wanted to eat it too. Farmers will say they want to protect agricultural land but they want to sell it to whoever and whenever they want, for any purpose.

Farmers will have to protect agricultural land at certain costs or have the city people move in. He recalled farmers saying that if they lose the right to do with their land what they want, they should be compensated. "The Minister of Agriculture says no way, forget it."

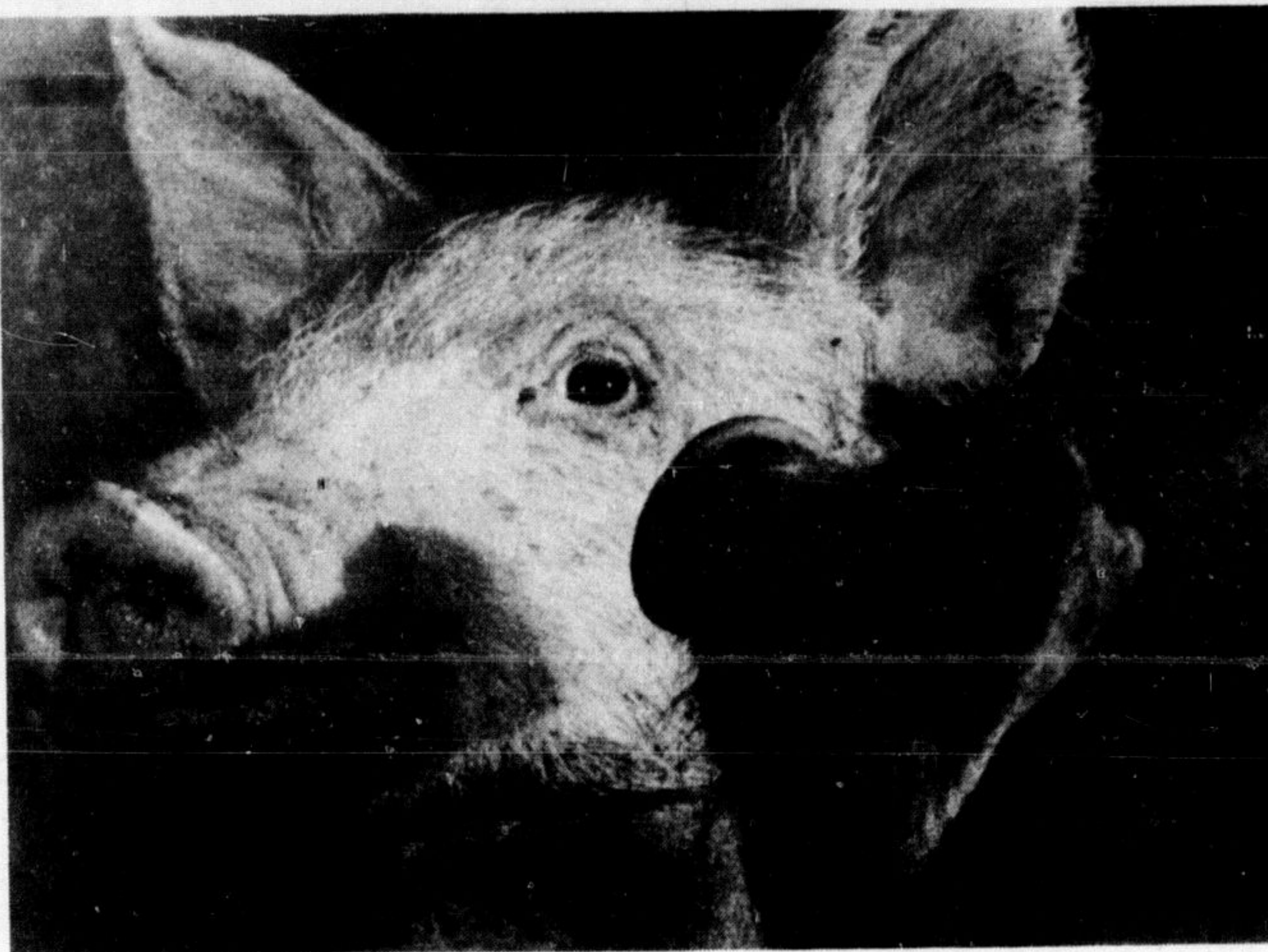
"Farmers will have to unite and look at the province as a whole or otherwise it will be a matter of the closer you are to the city, the quicker the agricultural land goes."

Not like union
He told the group they were unusual, not like the ordinary union where members could be counted on to support certain things at the polls.

Hadwin said the rural people were dominated politically by urban people. He noted most of the people at Queen's Park were urban people and acted to please urban constituents.

Hadwin said there was little sympathy in the cities for the farmer's plight. He noted the domination was extended when city people moved to the country and ran for seats on municipal councils.

"They have a romantic view of the rural Ontario—but aren't always tuned in," he suggested.



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(Photo, Ont. Ministry of Agri. and Food)

Farmers ignore allies

Ontario farmers ignore potential allies, about 30 Halton farmers were told Thursday night at a meeting in Milton. Guest speaker Professor Hadwin of the University of Guelph claimed the Women's Institutes across the province with their massive memberships and the 4-H clubs were treated as if they had no political wallop.

Hadwin said the farmers received little or no sympathy from city dwellers. He told the farmers they were dominated by urban politicians at all levels of government.

Unified front
Hadwin urged the development of a unified force to present the needs and aspirations of the agricultural industry. He said that wasn't being done and he saw no sign of such a force being developed.

Pointing to the W.I.s, Hadwin said it was that group that successfully lobbied to have home economics taught in the school. "Today they are thought of as some sort of humorous entertainment. They worked well years ago, why ignore them now?"

Hadwin, a sociologist who has done considerable work on land use in rural areas, said he felt 4-H groups if conscripted could aid the farmers' cause.

Wingrove does well at Erin championship

M. D. Wingrove of Campbellville and several local Holstein owners had a good day at the West Central Championship Show at Erin. The top animals in 11 regions and counties immediately west of Toronto were exhibitors of the 164 cattle entered.

Grand championship female went to R. F. Brown of Paris with reserve going to Spring Farms of Streetsville. Spring Farms also won Premier Breeder and Exhibitor honors. W. Gregson of Hillsburg showed the grand champion bull.

Prepare 4-H skit

The fourth meeting of the Milton Happy Hostesses was held at the home of Mrs. Pearl McWaters with 10 members present, on Oct. 7. Entertaining at a formal and informal tea was discussed. The girls started plans for Achievement Day on Dec. 7 at Ontario School for the Deaf. They will present a skit called "Your Manners are Showing." Fancy sandwiches of different varieties which were made by all club members were served with tea. The next meeting will be held at the home of the leader Mrs. Gloria Oswald.

Mayor's appeal fails

An appeal by Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur to have Halton Regional Council refrain from appealing land separations fell upon deaf ears.

The mayor argued the area councils, not the region, were in the best position to monitor land separations. She suggested there still wasn't a regional official plan and until such time as there was, the region did not have sufficient basis upon which to launch an appeal.

Planning Committee Chairman Harry Barrett said the province had delegated the responsibility of monitoring land separations to the region. He said efforts to consider the views of the area councils were made and the planners were abiding by the existing area official plans at the present.

Halton Hills mayor Tom Hill supported mayor MacArthur's contention.

Search begins for next Dairy Princess

Who will be Halton's next Dairy Princess?

The search for candidates is on and the sponsoring Halton Milk Committee announced this week the deadline for entering the contest is Friday, Nov. 1. Secretary Vic Lawrence (845-5056 Oakville) or Co-Ordinator Hazel Reid (877-8429 Georgetown) are accepting entries, as is the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food Office in Milton.

Joe Brent, OMAF Dairy Fieldman for this region, said contestants should be between 17 and 26 years (as of opening day of the 1975 Canadian National Exhibition) and must live on a farm where a dairy herd is maintained, in order to be eligible for the CNE competition next year where the Ontario Dairy Princess will be crowned.

Interview, speech...no milking

After Nov. 1 the sponsoring committee will make arrangements for a competition. The contest includes an interview by a panel of judges, and a brief talk. There is not necessarily a milking competition this year.

Brent said "the main object of the Dairy Princess program is to improve communications between the milk producer and the consumer. A Dairy Princess is a goodwill ambassador who represents the dairymen of the region at various functions."

Howitt wonders

What do the farmers want?

Halton Federation of Agriculture's Land Use Committee came under criticism from members of the Federation during a meeting of about 30 farmers Thursday night.

Members were discussing a land use brief presented to the regional planning committee. One of the key recommendations suggested large tracts of land be permanently zoned agricultural and no other uses permitted. Two spokesmen at the meeting expressed dissatisfaction with the fact the brief was presented to the regional politicians without ever having been presented to the members of the Federation.

Both opposed the stringent regulations concerning the freeze on land, but neither agreed what should be done. One suggested one separation for every 100 acres should be granted while the other argued there should be no government regulations on what farmers could do with their land.

Federation vice-president Harold Middlebrook said if separations were permitted it would create strip development. "It will put you out of business," he told colleagues.

One objector argued the freeze would be the thin edge of the wedge. He claimed if governments felt the land could be used for nothing else the government could eventually dictate what should be grown, and how.

"This brief appears as if it represents the farmers and it doesn't—it is just one committee," he said.

Three views
Councillor Dick Howitt of Halton Hills attended the meeting. He said he was anxious to listen to the views of the farmers and would try to serve them well.

"I'm prepared to listen but when we drew our official plan and designated the area slow growth I got calls from people asking that they be placed in a different zone. I got calls from irate people, annoyed because they were refused separations.

"I'll listen, but when I hear three different views from three different people I throw my hands up in the air and say, what do the farmers want?"

Etiquette is lesson

The Nassagaweya 4-H Club held the third meeting at Mrs. Dillon's on Oct. 15. Nine people were present.

At this meeting members learned how to introduce people and be a guest, also how to send invitations and word them. Each packed a suitcase while Mrs. Kirton read the proper way of packing it.

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