

queen's park

By ALF STONG
YORK-CENTRE MPP
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The Ontario Institute of Agriologists, whose membership includes farmers, soil scientists and other agriculture professionals, has urged the provincial government to impose an immediate freeze on the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses, and to strengthen its proposed guide-lines for food-producing land.

In a statement to the Minister of Agriculture, the Institute maintains that the government's recent policy paper on foodland guidelines allows municipalities too much leeway in developing land-use plans.

According to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the 26-acre per hour decline in improved land during 1966-1971 was reversed during 1971-1976. Meanwhile the decline in unimproved land continued.

The over-all story is that in 1976 there was less land in control of food producers, but that more of the land on farms was improved land, compared with 1971.

From available statistics, it is difficult to ascertain the exact situation. So much depends upon the quality of the land in question, which is not specified.

Also the official definition of a farm has been changed. Prior to 1971, a farm comprised any unit of at least one acre, producing for sale agricultural products worth at least \$50.

A farm is now defined as a unit of one acre or more producing \$1,200 in agricultural products.

The "Food for the Cities Conference" was held in Toronto March 30 and March 31, 1977.

Liberal Leader Stuart Smith said that "In the short run we could let the market prevail. More land would be taken out of production, prices would rise, and those farmers remaining on the land would have a very good income."

"But we must look to the future. There is no more land being made; we must husband and protect this product. This requires a distortion of the market today, but it will pay dividends in the future. Subtle changes in climate, some of which are now being predicted by experts in that field, could render our current land resources much less productive.

"Changes in the price of fertilizer may affect the optimum productivity of the land. There may well be a time when food exports will become a vital part of the balance

Reporter collapses,

Councillor Dr. George Burrows of Georgina may have locked his office door when he went to last Thursday's meeting of York Regional Council, but he didn't leave his practise behind.

Dr. Burrows was called from his seat at the back of the council chambers to the press table when reporter Christine Montgomery of the Newmarket Era collapsed.

After being administered to by Dr. Burrows and another

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yesterdays

by mary dawson

They had problems storing foodstuffs

Laying up food for the winter was always a problem for the housewife of days gone by.

Lucky indeed was the woman of the house who had a root cellar where potatoes, carrots, onions, beets, apples and cabbages could be stored in low temperatures which would ensure an adequate supply until the next year's crop of fresh vegetables.

Or the man of the house might be persuaded to dig a "pit", lined with straw in which such food items could be stored for the winter.

These were most serviceable when located in a corner of the Woodshed (stacked with piles of wood for fire stoking) so that they were accessible in spite of deep snow and sub-zero weather.

Eggs were stored against the weeks when zero weather discouraged the layers.

Usually they were packed in tiers, large end

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