

Detailed Soil Map of Brant County (cont'd)

2. Data on the use, management and potential yields from each soil unit are given in the report. This information will become more specific and useful as experimental field plots are adapted to the detailed units. General information of this nature should be of value to the average farmer, especially if he is buying or renting new land.
3. Information is given on the suitability of soils for building sites, septic tanks, farm ponds, construction materials and other engineering features of interest to farmers.
4. Soil maps are used as a basis for farm credit purposes.
5. Soil maps can be used to estimate water table depth and duration, to estimate flood frequency and duration, and to estimate soil slippage on embankments.

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The soil mapping is conducted in the course of foot traverses across the fields, examining the soils to a depth of 3 feet with a hand auger or probe in order to classify the soils into mapping units. A mapping unit includes the soil series name, which is based on the soil characteristics, and a landscape unit which describes the slope and relief of the land. The mappers do not examine build-up areas, yards, gardens, etc. After the field mapping is completed sites are chosen in which soil samples are collected for analysis in order to characterize the soil mapping units in terms of their physical, chemical and morphological properties. These samples are generally taken along road-allowances or on the edge of fields such that the crops are not affected in the course of sampling.

The proposed date of publication of the Brant County Soils Report is in 1972. These will be available on request from the Information Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, Toronto, on payment of a nominal fee.

I have spoken to Dr. Miller, chairman of the Department of Soil Science, O.A.C. this morning, and he has assured me that sufficient funds would be available to hire at least one high-school student for the months of July and August to assist in the mapping program on the reserve. He would be paid on a level equivalent to other high-school students employed for various purposes by the College. Further details of this could be finalized at a later date.

I hope that this provides you with the information needed to thoroughly evaluate this soils program. We recognize the value of this type of soils information to any user of soils as a resource, as I know you do, and I sincerely hope that we can provide this information in your area.

Yours truly,
 (Signed)
 C. J. Acton, Pedologist.

Note:- What is your reaction to the above proposal? Please convey your ideas to the planning committee or to your district councillor. Difficulties could be encountered should the whole reserve be subject to the testing. Any individual farmer or land owner may at anytime send samples of soil for testing to the O.A.C. to determine its productivity.

- Editors.

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A Release for Ontario Region, Dept. of Indian Affairs
 1849 Yonge St., Toronto 7, Ontario
 Dated May 14, 1970.

LOANS AID SPEEDED FOR INDIAN BUSINESS VENTURES ON RESERVES:

Accelerated economic development on Indian reserves in Ontario is being encouraged by the Department of Indian Affairs, according to E. W. Oliver, Acting Regional Director. "We expect to see more new business ventures owned and operated by the Indian people emerging this year than in any year before," Mr. Oliver said. "In nearly every instance the businesses helped by loans will increase on-reserve employment and enable Indian people to strengthen their identity and to make the most of their traditional skills, with the aid of modern management methods and the capital funds required."

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