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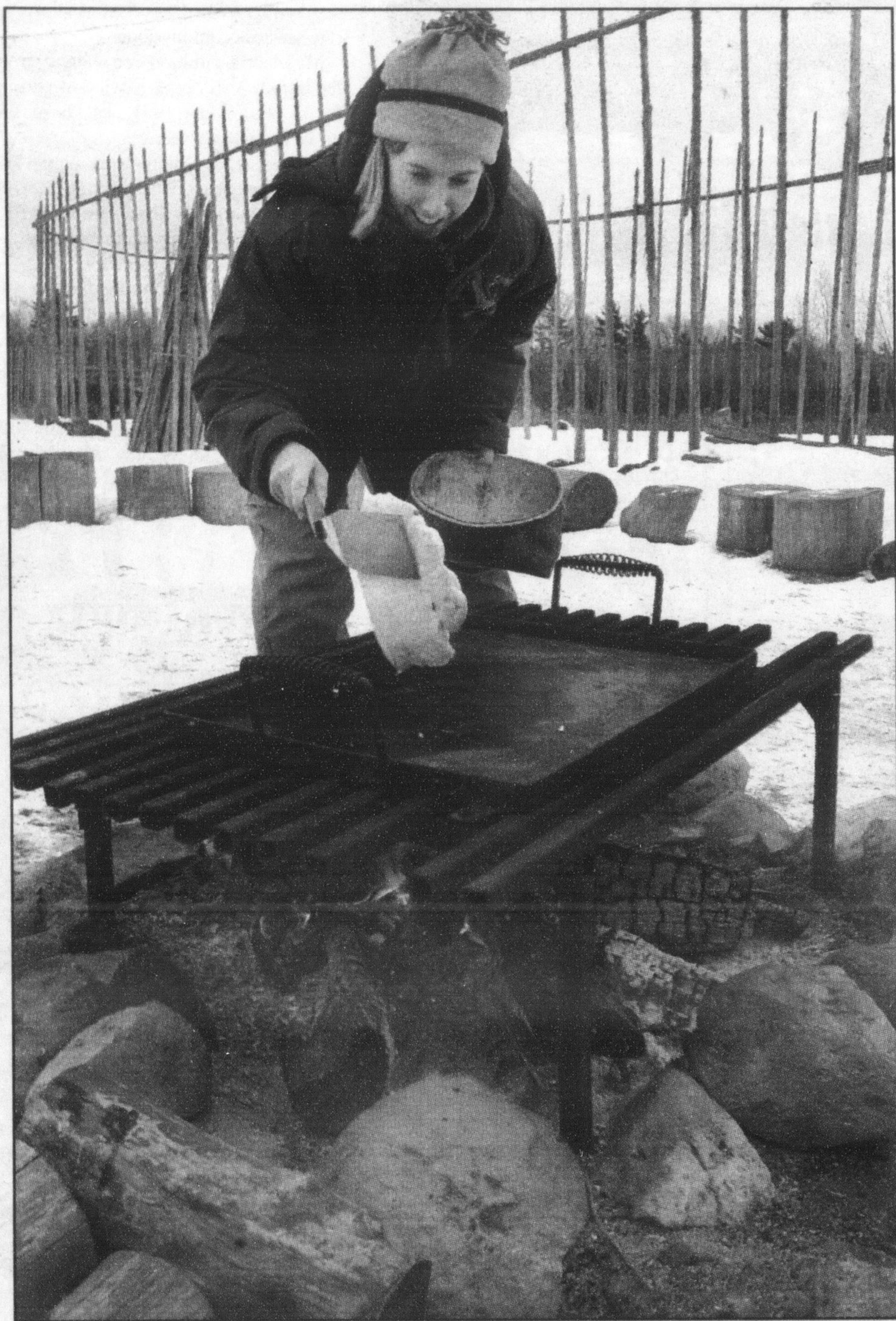


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Sweet Water Days

Crawford Lake historical interpreter Adrienne Duff cooks cornbread over an open fire as part of Sweet Water Days, which got underway in conjunction with maple syrup season Saturday. Sweet Water Days featuring demonstrations of native-style maple syrup uses will continue until mid-April. See more photos on page 16.

Outraged residents pack the Town Hall

CN vice-president speaks at meeting about development

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion

Curious and angry residents packed council chambers Monday night to express concerns about the major intermodal terminal scheduled to be built in south Milton by Canadian National Railways (CN).

One Tremaine Road resident told the

Town's community services standing committee meeting she moved to Milton from Mississauga to get away from the megacity feel.

"We bought property (in Milton) to live out our retirement. With these changes, I'm not sure I want to live here anymore."

Keith Heller, senior vice-president of CN, was at the meeting to speak to councillors and residents.

"My intention is to describe the general plan," he said. "We want to work closely with Halton (Region) and Milton. I think (the terminal) will be positive for the community."

Mr. Heller said the main objective of the terminal is to remove trucks from the highways.

"An intermodal terminal is a transport of freight from one point to another," Mr. Heller explained. "The truck containers would be placed on trains. It is not a waste transfer facility."

Milton was chosen for the location because of the significant track length (12,000 feet), it's easy to access from the main highways and the land is not immediately adjacent to residential development, he said.

• see CN on page 7

Tax hike approved at Region

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Special to The Champion

There was nary a whimper as Halton Regional council approved a 2.7 per cent budget increase that will add nearly \$30 to a \$180,000 home in Milton — or \$40 to a \$250,000 home.

Regional councillors called the hike — which includes an extra \$13.45 for policing — "responsible."

The regional tax hike, the first in more than eight years, did garner criticism from Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, who called it typical in the wake of an election.

Yet most, like Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale, supported the increase, saying voters are more interested in responsible, accountable government than tax issues.

Citing Toronto's fiscal crisis after years of budget flatlining, Ms Mulvale said, "What people want is responsible government, which explains the challenges and protects them in the long term."

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